

3 No 7

THE
GERMAN GIL BLAS;

OR,
THE ADVENTURES
OF
PETER CLAUS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF
BARON KUIEGGE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR C. AND G. Kearsley,
JOHNSON'S HEAD, (NO. 46) FLEET-STREET.

1793.

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THE
GERMAN GIL BLAS.

CHAP. I.

*From whence arose the Error, which occasioned
a new Adventure to the unfortunate Peter.*

THE numerous readers, (though I
dare even hope they will be innu-
merable) the numerous readers therefore
of the first part of my history, will please
to recollect the terrible event which I re-
lated at the end of the fifteenth chapter,
and which happened on the 27th of Au-
gust, 1776, at three o'clock in the morn-
ing. Quitting the cold remains of my
VOL. II. B friend

friend Brick, and taking with me the important packet which he bequeathed me, I was going to Louis de Reyerberg, but was seized and forced into a carriage. Without doubt this new adventure will cause a great deal of inquietude among the lively and generous, that are any way interested in my happiness. They must per force have trembled, nay, lost much of their tranquility, on being apprized of the alarm and violence I sustained; for he must be a very dull author indeed who cannot, in some measure, interest his reader in recounting the various incidents of his proper history. Assured of this, I continue my recital with courage, and without introducing my work with an humble preface, excusing the imperfections of the first volume, or humbly asking pardon; for I despise low grovelling manners, nor have I
ever

ever resolution to peruse a book that fault-
teringly implores the indulgent compassion
of the reader. It is alone suitable to the
pen of a bad author, who produces matter
unworthy notice, and yet by a misplaced
modesty affects an excuse; I, on the con-
trary, boldly recommend the history of
Peter Claus as an instructive and amusing
work. Both my hopes and my wishes in-
cline me to believe, that the public will be
pressing to learn the rest of my adventures;
willing, therefore, to satisfy their curiosity, I
hasten to inform them of the future events
of my life.

But for the better understanding the ori-
gin of my last adventure, it may be neces-
sary to take the history a little back, and
inform the reader, that intending to pass
the night with Mr. Brick, I had the pre-
caution

caution to go into a tavern, and take a light supper, with a bottle of wine, to enable me to bear the fatigue which privation of rest might occasion. When I entered, there was no one in the room. Soon after a man of my own age (that is to say thirty-six or thirty-seven) entered the apartment. As I am of a social disposition, I was not backward in beginning a conversation with him: his exterior denoted the man of fashion; his coat was of yellow silk, with embroidered silver buttons; a waistcoat of silver tissue, and a large beaver hat; the buckles of his shoes were square, and not unfit for harness, at least if we may judge from their size. In a word, he was a man to whom the whole world would have taken off their hats, if we except those *petit maitres* who never wear them but under their arm. The fineness of the weather,

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the season, the news both relative to peace and war, the theatre, Mr. Goetze, the head of the clergy of Hamburg, toleration, and a great deal of the same common place, served me as an introduction to conversation; but his answers were short, absent, and confused; at the same time walking with a quick but disturbed pace about the room, wringing his hands, yet seeming to wish to conceal the strong inquietude with which his very soul appeared agitated. In about half an hour after his arrival, the boy of the hotel brought him a letter, which he had barely run over, when his agitation seemed to redouble; he beat his head, ran about like one possessed, stopped short, renewed his race, suddenly approaching me, then as quickly retiring; in fine, his situation became truly alarming, and excited pity.

Compassion and kindness were at all times amongst my cardinal virtues; and notwithstanding, though I possessed an excessive curiosity for extraordinary adventures, it was joined with a desire to assist the unfortunate; I therefore approached the stranger, took him by the hand, and said, "Sir, you appear unhappy; can I be serviceable? You may explain the cause without fear of being betrayed; I am not insensible to the misfortunes of others; I love to render assistance where I can." Immoveable with surprize, he fixed his eyes on mine, as if to discover the sincerity of my professions. Having for some time kept silence, he at length interrupted it by these words. "I am indeed under very great embarrassment; you may render me a very important service; but stranger as I am to you, how can I intreat assistance? Yet it will

will neither cost you money, nor much trouble.”—“ Even though it were to ask pecuniary assistance, speak boldly,” replied I. The stranger answered, “ My history is too long, too complicated, and my mind too much agitated to make the recital at this time ; let it suffice, I am persecuted though innocent, closely watched, and every art used to surprize me ; without friends, nay, even without acquaintance, I am obliged to quit Hamburg immediately, to avoid the snares of my enemies. This anonymous letter advises me of the danger to which I am exposed by a longer stay. I dare not shew myself in the street : the night is yet distant, my cloaths would betray me ; if you will change your’s with me—” “ Sir,” said I, cautiously, recollecting my adventure in the wood of Wolfenbuttle with the Count di Fondini, “ Sir,

this is too delicate and dangerous." "How is that, my dear Sir?" cried he, in a pressing manner, "suppose you should even be accosted and questioned, your person is in safety; you have no ill to fear; I have committed no crime; therefore the error cannot last, as they must discover that you are not the 'person they seek; nay, more, you may remain here till dark. Your brown cloaths and great coat will save me from the pursuit of the moment, and I shall be able to reach a vessel, the captain of which will give me an asylum; to-morrow early I will set off for Holland; you will lose nothing by the exchange, and the consequence cannot be prejudicial to you. Your features bespeak humanity—have pity, and save me—never will I forget the obligation." "Well," thought I, "no harm can surely come from it; I run no risk,

risk, if I stay here until about ten at night; besides, as it is but a short distance from my friend Brick's, before I leave him, I can take the precaution to change my cloaths.

No sooner said than done; we changed cloaths; the stranger then embraced me, expressing his gratitude in the most sensible and moving terms; after which, wrapping himself up in the great coat, and concealing his face with my round hat, he left me.

Here again was one of my accustomed imprudencies. "Who knows," said I, after his departure, "what black crime he has been guilty of; but no matter—boy bring me some wine. These cloaths are much better than mine, and fit me as well as though I had been measured for them."

them." The singularity of this adventure charmed me; and perfectly free from inquietude, I walked up and down the room with my new beaver hat on. While I was thus employed, two men entered the room, surveyed me attentively, and retired. They were no doubt the same, who afterwards against my will procured me a ride in their coach, though it was not so long a one as the Duke of Courland's adversary experienced; for he was jolted about the vast empire of Russia for no less a term than eight years. I left the tavern, and repaired unmolested about ten o'clock to my sick friend. Doubtless the evening was not far enough advanced for the designed purpose. Death deprived me of him that night! My grief on this melancholy occasion, so far suspended my thinking faculties, that I quitted the apartments of the deceased in
the

the habiliments of the stranger, whose pursuers doubtless had closely watched me; for I had scarcely passed the threshold of the door before I fell into their hands, their coach at the same time stopping nearly opposite me.

CHAP. II.

*Peter has the unexpected Happiness of entering
the Yoke of Hymen.*

I WAS far from mounting the vehicle with a good grace ; on the contrary, I opposed my adversaries, making all the resistance my consternation would allow ; at length, despairing of success, I found myself in their power, it being in vain to combat with superior force. On their seizing me, one of them presented the point of a sword to my breast, menacing me with instant death, if I moved, or offered to cry out, whilst another behind me confined my arms, so that every effort was vain, especially as the whole neighbourhood were in a profound sleep, and the street quite private.

vate. "What risk do I run," thought I; they will presently discover their error, as without doubt they know the man they have taken this trouble for, and suppose me to be the person; I have therefore only to inform them how I came by these cloaths, and they will immediately grant me my liberty." Nevertheless, I determined not to have recourse to this discovery till some time was elapsed, in order to give the stranger the better opportunity of escaping.

The coach travelled at a great rate; and being recovered from my fright, I attentively surveyed my company; one of them appeared a Dutch officer, the other a merchant. "Sir," said the last, "you little expected, I believe, that the family you have outraged, and dishonoured by your base proceedings, should pursue you hither
from

from the extreme limits of Livonia, or that you should find at Hamburg hearts that interest themselves in their behalf. What ! to seduce innocence ? carry dishonour into an opulent and distinguished family—corrupt the virtue of the daughter ! and after this to withdraw privately like a thief in the night, abandon her thus dishonoured to the fury of an incensed and inconsolable parent, and what increases the horror of the whole is the unfortunate situation of his daughter. Tell me, Sir, are not these actions at which you ought to blush, nay, even to sink with shame and confusion ?”

“ But, Sir,” replied I, “ look at me ; can you really suppose me capable of such atrocious crimes ? If I had thought you pursued a man so criminal, I would never have consented to wear his habiliments.”——

“ Long harangues are of no avail,” replied

plied the officer ; “ can you deny the fact ? ” — “ Without doubt I can,” replied ; “ I am not the object of your pursuit.” “ This is an unheard-of insolence,” cried the merchant ; “ do not think, though you are a stranger, that your person is unknown to us. No, Sir, you have been too accurately described, and too closely watched for several days, for us to fall into any error on your account—Was you not at the tavern last night, dressed as you are to-day ? Did we not see you with our own eyes ? And have you not passed the night in a house belonging to a soap-merchant, the corner of ***-street ? Deny it if you can—but why do I ask idle questions ; you are going to speak to a person that knows you but too well ; and on whom, if you have any sentiment of honour remaining, you cannot look without blushing.

At

At this instant the coach stopped; we got out, and ascended the first floor of a handsome house; my conductor took me into an anti-chamber, where a man in peach-coloured cloaths received us very politely. “Victory! victory!” cried the Captain, “we have taken our fugitive; here is our prisoner; I hope all will go well; but the unfortunate lady—how is she to day, Doctor?”—“The time of her delivery is near,” replied the disciple of Æsculapius; “but she is excessively weak; Heaven knows whether she will be able to bear her sufferings—I despair of her life, unless the satisfaction arising from having her honour restored should, in some measure, revive her almost exhausted spirits; for she has been delirious all night.”—“See,” said the merchant, “imprudent young man, this is your work; pray, doctor,

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tor, have you taken care to provide a clergyman?"—"Yes," replied the *accoucheur*, "he is at this moment endeavouring to administer consolation to the young lady."

Surprize rendered me motionless; it was now advised by the physician, that to prevent too much surprize, the priest should be called out, and commissioned to acquaint the lady of the arrival of her perfidious lover. This counsel was followed. As for the part I had to act, it was of the truly tragi-comic kind.

"Sir," said the merchant to the priest, "peruse these papers; here is the consent of the father of the lady; he authorizes us to unite his daughter with her faithless lover, if she is fortunate enough to meet with him; and here also is full power from the father

father of the seducer, which enjoins us to send his son to India, if he refuses to efface by a legitimate union, the shame he has brought on the family of Meinhardt ;” then gave both writings to the holy man, saying, “ it now only remains to prepare with caution the unfortunate young lady for the important step she is about to take ; namely, the being united by the most indissoluble bonds to the man that has betrayed her. I suppose you will not delay, but consecrate their nuptials immediately.”

“ Without doubt,” replied the priest ;

“ what joy ! what satisfaction to the poor lady !” Then addressing me, he added,

“ Trifling and unjust man, look into your own heart, the measure of your crimes is complete. In what manner would you endeavour to exculpate yourself, if the Supreme Judge, to punish your culpable
lightness,

lightness, instead of pardon was to pronounce against you the maledictions bestowed on Sodom and Gomorrah, upon Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; but I remit your fate to that infinite mercy from whose bounty alone you can hope for forgiveness, and haste to rejoin the sorrowful victim of your artful seduction, who is at present overwhelmed with the poignancy of her sufferings."

At these words he returned to the lady. A longer silence might have proved fatal. "In the name of Heaven," cried I, "Gentlemen, vouchsafe to hear me. I am not the culprit you take me for—" "Peace, peace, my friend," cried the officer, "there is no alternative; marry the lady, or go to India; which do you prefer?"—"Well then, if it must be so, I consent,"

consent," replied I, "but you will see the surprize and anger of the lady, when she learns that you have united her to a man totally unknown to her."

The priest having acquitted himself of his commission, opened the door of an inner apartment, and bid me enter. The curtains belonging to the lady's bed, who was shortly expected to become a mother, were drawn, and the blinds close shut; yet there was light enough in the apartment for her to have discovered that I was not her lover, had she not been delirious. "Perfidious, ungrateful man!" said she; but no, "thou wast ever faithful; the fear of not obtaining the consent of my parents to our union caused thee to fly! Oh, my dear Charles, with what sorrow hast thou embittered the days of thy Julia; return to her

er arms." The rest of her discourse was
entirely without connection, though she
talked a great deal. "You exhaust your
spirits," said the physician, interrupting
her, "which are so necessary to support
your pains—but let us now haste to tie
the sacred bands."

"Well, Mr. Van Haftendonk," replied
the merchant ironically, "well, Sir, the
body mistakes your person likewise; will
you immediately consent to receive the
nuptial benediction? or do you prefer a
voyage to the Indies?"—Surprize for a
moment made me dumb; at last I said, "Surely
never has any man experienced such strange
embarrassments as have attended me, even
from my extreme youth, yet a propitious
star has guided me through them, and will
not abandon me in this dilemma; therefore
dispose

dispose of me as you please ; I am in your power ; but if ever you repent of this step, remember that I used every means to undeceive, and open your eyes."

My protestations were of no effect ; I was obliged to submit to all they required, and gave my hand under the name of Mr. Charles Van Haftendonk to Mademoiselle Julia Meinhardt.

As I have before observed, this scene was at once both serious and comic ; clothed in a borrowed habit, I was united for life to a woman on the point of becoming a mother ; in spite of my efforts to the contrary, forced to be a husband and a father ; this was a melancholy piece of business, and yet, at the same time, was truly ridiculous.

The

This ceremony finished, my spouse was seized with a fit of delirium, accompanied with the most poignant pains, my son being disposed to see the light ; but I was not permitted for the present to contemplate this tender sprig of nature, who was produced in a quarter of an hour after our union, being conducted after the ceremony back to the anti-chamber.

The officer now spoke much kinder to me than before. "Sir," said he, "the views of both families are now answered; I hope from this day you will regard our honor as your own. You must now accompany me to Holland ; your wife is prepared for that necessary separation, and will follow as soon as her strength will permit. Your father has already formed a project in your favour relative to a suitable establishment ; you have

have therefore nothing more to do but throw yourself at his feet, express your repentance, and you are sure of obtaining pardon."

In vain I begged a delay of a few hours to settle my affairs, intending, if possible, to acquaint my friends, and obtain their assistance, but all effort to move him was ineffectual.

"Your father," said he, "has remitted money enough for the occasion, and I will furnish you with the necessary linen and cloaths, so that there is nothing to stop us."
"Be it so," replied I, in a tone half gay, half melancholy, "the world is a theatre on which the most whimsical and ridiculous events are continually representing; but time will clear up every thing; I am ready
to

to follow you ; for it is useless to struggle against fetters, when we are already enchained. I therefore am all submission." Little preparation being wanted, we embarked, and set sail for Holland at nine o'clock in the morning.

CHAP. III.

A Sea Voyage—Peter recollects the Manuscript of Mr. Brick—finds it in his Pocket—breaks the Seal, and begins to read.

UPON the whole, the captain, whose prisoner I had the honor to be, was an excellent man ; rough, hardy, and but little polished, like the major part of the navy ; but at the same time kind, sensible, and of a sound judgment ; very sociable, gay, and humane, yet without appearing so ; he had not read much, but I believe it possible to possess understanding without studying the thoughts or opinions of others ; nor did I ever hear him talk much of books, some few voyages excepted ; these he quoted whenever any species of literature

ture was mentioned; nevertheless, his judgment appeared to be just. "Sherlock," said he, "contrary to the custom of his nation, is a vile adulator, praising indiscriminately every house where he was admitted to the table, and deifying every prince that received him graciously. The description of the manners and customs of those nations Moore treats of, comprehends nothing but a number of satirical anecdotes, frequently erroneous, for the most part collected in alehouses, and in the company of women of loose character, with a number of insignificant trifles as devoid of information as of understanding. This great Mentor had better been silent; but the inimitable Brydone is an historian I esteem and reverence." The rest of my fellow-travellers presented a variety of whimsical oddities. A young physician returning

to his studies at Leyden busily employed all his journey in making verses. A female singer, who, with harmonious accents, intended to charm the phlegmatic Hollanders, in exchange for which she hoped to reap a golden harvest. A Protestant Minister of the Holy Gospel smoked from morning till night, and talked nothing but politics. Two young merchants, insupportable from their foppery, and unequalled in insolence; they were citizens of a free town of the empire, perfectly smitten with their own merit, enchanted with their own figures, and vainly proud of their parents wealth.

To these we must add a German Calvinist clergyman, who was going to Holland to engage pious, charitable, ambitious, and bigoted souls, to empty their purses for
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the righteous purpose of erecting in his village a building where he might with impunity preach his follies. These were our principal fellow travellers. We soon became acquainted, and were quite amicable. The weather was also fine, and the wind favourable the first day.

I had never been at sea before; and the better to contemplate the beautiful scene before me, and that I might enjoy it free from inquietude, I resolved to banish from my remembrance every disagreeable idea, determined likewise no longer to endeavour the undeceiving my officer, in regard to my not being Mr. Van Haftendonk.—“Why,” thought I, “should I not let them remain in their error, and profit by the occasion to see Holland free from expence? When I arrive, they will conduct me to

old Mr. Van Haftendonk, who must immediately perceive the mistake, make a thousand excuses, and load me with innumerable presents. I surrender my wife to the true father of the child ; so that, according to the manners of the great, I shall have only officiated as a proxy." These reflections restored my gaiety, which was yet more augmented by the supposition that the young Haftendonk would arrive at Amsterdam before us, he having departed very early in the morning ; and by the aid of our glasses, we in effect discovered a vessel which had far preceded us, and was now in full sail.

Having thus established a system of conduct, I laid me down to sleep with great tranquility ; when I arose next morning, the sun was obscured with clouds,
the

the wind was contrary, and blew with violence, which much impeded our way; nor was this the only evil; the good humour of the passengers appeared proportionably clouded as the weather became more gloomy and disagreeable.

“ I wish I had a book,” said I, “ the society of the vessel is become dull; and I should like to read—And what hinders me from enjoying that satisfaction?—Have not I got the valued remembrance of my friend Brick with me.” In changing my dress for the voyage, I took care not to leave it behind, though the hurry of embarkation, and the company in the vessel had till this time occasioned me to forget it. I had not even opened it; the seals were entire.

“Divine manuscript,” said I, so I broke the seals, “what new knowledge art thou going to communicate?”—With the utmost eagerness I tore off the covering, and began to read what is contained in the next chapter.

CHAP. IV.

Beginning of the Manuscript—A violent Tempest drives the Ship on the Coast of Denmark.

“ Narrative of the Adventures of Christopher Henry Brick, after his Departure from Brunswick.

“ **R**ESOLVED to dedicate the few hours that I apparently have to live to those friends who have attended me with such generous care during my illness, I leave them my important observations. If they place them in proper hands, infinite advantage may result to themselves and all Europe. It contains a description of some unknown countries, situated under

the antarctic pole, some extraordinary events having discovered them to me alone. Their situation and course are not known to any other Europeans. You will find an exact detail of the route I pursued, and the position of the different parts, at the end of my manuscript. If you resolve, my friends, to communicate these discoveries to any of the maritime powers, be well paid for it; make yourselves certain of the conditions before you undertake the voyage, for perfidy and perjury are common to the great; even the English nation will sometimes engage you by great promises to sacrifice your health and strength in the service of the state, to the hazard of life and fortune, in unknown countries.—But to return to my recital.

“ It is about fourteen years since, being about the middle of 1766, that the generous

rous Reyerberg restored my spirits, which had been almost broken at Brünswick, by procuring me an honest subsistence in the theatre; the manager was raising a company for Holland; I consented to be of the party. Though I had some success in this new profession, it did not abate the desire I had to travel; and having formed an acquaintance with a merchant who justly bore the character of an honest man, I frequently discoursed with him on the desire I had to engage in some new profession, even though it were upon another continent. "If you are serious," replied the merchant, "I can easily procure you a good place to go immediately to the Cape of Good Hope." I entreated him to do me this kindness; he gave me his word; and being speedily engaged, I soon after departed to transact the business of a rich merchant.

“ Our voyage was successful, the sea sparing me the cruel sufferings with which the generality are afflicted the first time they are confined on board ; but as soon as I landed at the Cape, I was attacked by sickness. The excessive heat, the unwholesome vapours, the bad food, the want of fresh water, the use of spirituous liquors, and, in a word, the being unaccustomed to a maritime life, brought on an inflammation of the lungs, which continued a long time, and of which I was not wholly recovered, when a slow fever undermined my constitution by degrees. An excessive weakness took from me all desire of business, and made me wish to return as soon as possible to Europe.

“ While I waited a favourable opportunity for that purpose, Captain Cook arrived

rived at the Cape, in the year 1772, in his voyage round the world. An inclination to see distant and unknown countries, a hope that the temperate regions where the famous navigator was going would re-establish my health; in fine, the incertitude of meeting with a vessel bound to Europe, joined with my hopeless situation when I arrived, not to mention the heat and fatigue I should sustain in a long voyage, all these considerations induced me to entreat this celebrated man to give me some employ in his ship; he accepted my proffered service, and made me one of his clerks. I left the employ of the merchant, after having settled my accounts, and departed from the Cape with the illustrious Cook on the 27th of November, 1772. We made great way; the design of the voyage was, as it is well known, to discover the existence of a
southern

southern continent. We cruized a long time in those latitudes, but at length encountered large fields of ice, through which it was impossible to pass.

“ The two ships parted company the 9th of March, 1773; it was my fate to remain in that commanded by Captain Furneaux; we joined company again at New-Zealand, without having made any discovery of importance, and sailed together to Otaheite.

“ The enchanting situation of this place soon established my health; never did I pass my days so serene, or so agreeably, as I did at Otaheite; nor do I believe there ever was a man that enjoyed more unalloyed happiness than I did among those islanders.

My

“ My health and strength returned, and I soon became sensible of tender impressions; a young Otaheitan, who frequently came to see us, charmed me; she was distinguished from the rest by her modesty, innocence and delicacy; my age did not prohibit me from indulging in the tender passion; I was thirty-five, but had never yet experienced the pleasure of a sincere affection. The affected manners of the Europeans, their absurd carriage, their visible coquetry, their want of pure, sincere, and tender sentiments, the vanity so visible in all their actions, the sensuality which they substitute for love, their convenient virtue, their prudery, their studied severity, their address in accommodating to time and circumstance, and in bestowing their favours with a critical precision; all these had heretofore operated as a powerful preservative
against

against a tender attachment. It was then natural enough that beauty, candour, and innocence, should make a strong impression on my heart. My young islander soon participated in the sentiments she had inspired, our love increased to such excess, that it knew no bounds. She only lived for me, brought me the choicest fruits of the island, wholly abandoning herself to a tender inquietude on discovering the least concern in my countenance; and how could I be otherwise than sorrowful, when I considered the short duration of my present happiness for ever destroyed, the fatal moment that the ships should sail? When I compared my free situation to the constraint of our European circles, and the cares, passions, prejudices, and imaginary wants, with which I should be tormented in the whirlpool of folly. Alas! when I considered

considered this, tears flowed involuntarily from my eyes. My dear girl, whose language I soon learned (for love is an excellent master) quickly guessed the cause of my grief; I confessed that my heart was torn with the idea of an eternal separation.

“ Oh, if thou hast no other inquietude,” said she, throwing her arms around my neck, “ make thyself happy, nothing shall ever part us; I will follow thee wherever thou goest.”—“ Amiable girl,” I replied, “ no, I will not make thee unhappy; thou dost not yet know the Europeans; their outsidés alone are brilliant. What, shall I tear thee from the bosom of thy family, from thy enamelled meadows and rich fields, to disturb thy tranquility, and expose thy innocence to the wickedness of my companions? No, never! rather will I stay
for

for ever with thee.”—“It is a God that inspires thee,” replied she, “my dear Brick, (this was a name she always called me) my beloved, stay for ever with us!” In short, her prayers, joined with those of her father, at length prevailed. I hid myself in the interior part of the isle the night before the departure of the vessels; and becoming the happy husband of the fair Otaheitan, I forgot my native country.

“Never did I feel so acutely the misfortune of multiplying our wants; blessed with the woman I adored, reclined on her bosom under the shade of a tree, whose fruit furnished us with agreeable and wholesome nourishment, sheltered from the inclemency of the weather by a simple cabin, enchanted with the superb prospects of nature, covered with garments prepared by
my

that my own hands, safe from the pursuit of
dear envy, from the tricks, cupidity, and foo-
lled with vanity of civilized Europeans; con-
vinced of the affections of a woman whose
e of beauty was not exposed to the loose re-
ny- gards of a prince plunged in licentious
ght pleasures; free, not having that tyrant to
and fear who would sell me to a strange mo-
fair narch, to aid in the destruction of those
whom his insatiate avarice had provoked to
resistance, or that would seize my flocks
is- the better to enable him to repay the squal-
ed ling of an Italian singer, devour delicate
er meats, pension a dancer, augment his
se hunting train, or maintain a number of
e. useless animals in his menagerie.

Who would not have thought but that
this was a life of happiness, without know-
ing a desire or a pain? But even in this
delicious

delicious abode, I experienced the melancholy effects of having received an education contrary to real happiness; for as soon as the attraction of novelty, which is alone capable of holding the man accustomed to polished society, was passed, my enjoyments became languid. Sometimes I talked with my wife on the arts and sciences of Europe; I endeavoured to learn her our monotonous and inflexible language; sometimes I cut a flute of reeds, and was accompanied in my artificial sounds by the enchanting accents of her harmonious voice. I wished for a library, yet the great book of the Creation was ever before my eyes. In my meals I consulted appetite more than hunger, and not only eat more than was sufficient for subsistence; but disgusted with one food, I sought for others; urged by intemperance, I regretted the poisons
invented

vented by art to appease the pangs of a
tiated appetite ; deprived of that pulve-
zed weed that the tyranny of fashion has
made necessary, I culled simples proper to
tickle my brain and intoxicate me ; I laid
out gardens, disfiguring the beautiful
works of the Creator by artificial walks,
and spoiling the variety which he has so
marvellously distributed ; greedy of the
metal which is the source of our wars, I
wished to ransack the bowels of the earth
to seek it. I gave tasks to the young
people, teaching them to turn their feet
outwards, although nature has placed them
straight. I constrained them to regular
dances, instead of the varied natural leaps
with which they formerly expressed their
joy. And shall I own, that when warm
with pleasure, I could not contemplate a
young and graceful beauty lightly bound-
ing

ing over the plain, without experiencing criminal desires.—“Culpable European!” said I, “thou art not worthy to live amongst an innocent and happy people—yet thou art not so wicked as some of thy companions.” This knowledge of my own unworthiness, the trouble of my soul, and the desire of change, rendered me thoughtful and melancholy. My wife remarked it and was cruelly afflicted. After a stay of six months at Otaheite, I was sitting one morning on the shore of the agitated sea, reproaching myself for troubling the repose of a happy people with a pernicious knowledge. “Fly while it is yet time,” cried I, suddenly rising. There was a canoe near the shore; I threw myself in.—“Where art thou going, miserable wretch! thou wilt find thy death amidst the angry waves—Stay—thy unfortunate wife will not be consoled

consoled for thy loss"—Those reflections came too late; a furious wave bore my light skiff rapidly from the shore. I had but little provision, which I found by good fortune in the boat, and only one oar. Obligated to submit to the violence of the waters, I calmly awaited my fate.

The different ideas that recurred during the first three days that I floated at the mercy of the waves, it would be difficult to describe. The fourth, my provisions were just expended, and I looked for nothing but death, when I found myself among the ice, through which Captain Cook could not penetrate. A violent current drove me into a narrow opening; and after eight hours navigation, I found myself on a tranquil sea, which became more agreeable the nearer I approached the antarctic pole.

My

My heart felt an emotion which I had never before experienced: I hoped to reach the continent situated under the pole, and my hope was not disappointed. The thought re-animated my courage, I rowed with double strength, and towards night discovered the shore of an enchanting country. I eagerly disembarked, shedding tears of joy, and returning the most lively thanks to the Supreme Being for his goodness in my miraculous preservation."

I was at this part of the manuscript of M. Brick, when a sudden hurricane obliged me to give over reading.

I have had recourse to all the works both ancient and modern, in verse and in prose, which compose my little library, for a truly poetic description of a storm at sea; but

but I could meet with none to my satisfaction. It was easily to be discovered that they were all written on shore, sitting by the fire-side, in a perfect calm. It is impossible to form an idea of such a spectacle of horror without having witnessed its raging fury.

The storm continued with the utmost violence during the night; and towards morning we found ourselves on the coast of Denmark.

“What course shall we take?” said the harrassed crew—“The ship has sustained very great damage; the mizen mast is splintered, and we had best bear away for Copenhagen to refit: happy in having escaped the tremendous dangers which threatened us.”

Prudence required us to make the first land possible; we accordingly steered for the capital of Denmark, and entered the port at noon, fortunately relieved from the fears that had oppressed us.

CHAP. V.

*Meets an old Acquaintance—Continuation of
the Manuscript—Departure for Holland.*

“**Y**OU must allow that the variety met with in voyages is amusing,” said I to the captain, as we were walking about the town; “as for me, I enjoy this pleasure by the most singular of all hazards.”—“Faith I am not of your opinion,” replied my conductor, “I think that it is very unfortunate for us to be cast on the coast of Denmark. Your father will experience the most cruel inquietudes.”—“I very much doubt that,” replied I, smiling; but my Mentor did not comprehend my meaning, therefore continued, “What shall we do here? I never

loved the Danes; they are bodies without souls; it is true we are all kneaded with mould, but the people of this country are formed of nothing but mud and clay."

The officer was making yet more observations, equally unjust, on this country, when a man approached us with a book under his arm—"He is surely a Frenchman," said the captain, "or very like one." I examined him more particularly, as I thought I had seen him before, nor did he survey me with less attention. At length he exclaimed in bad Danish, throwing himself on my neck, "*Ah, Careste Clausen, wo gørd ed?* Is it really you, my friend? Who would have ever thought we should meet in Copenhagen? And if I may judge by the good looks and habiliments of my old friend, he is happily situated."—

"Sup-

“Supportable, Sir,” replied I, “but perhaps you mistake me; notwithstanding, you will permit me to ask to whom I have the honor of speaking.”—“Ah, my dear friend,” replied he, “the times change, and good or bad fortune influences the exterior of men. But do you not remember the *Sieur Lippeville*? As for me, I recollected you immediately.”—In effect, it was my old master.—“And how, I pray, came you here?” said I. “Not being able to reach my own country,” replied he, “I accompanied a young German count in his travels, in quality of governor; he possessed a large fortune, but ruined himself at play. In short, we were both reduced to the last extremity, for I had lost my annuity by the failure of the government. The count went into the army of the Emperor, and I had no other resource than my

weak talents. A negociator of Schleswic, to whom I discovered my embarrassed situation, gave me letters of recommendation to Copenhagen. I repaired thither, made several attempts to better my situation, but to no purpose; I then resolved to give lessons in the French and German languages, by which I gained a comfortable subsistence. The riches of a widow I soon after married made me quit my former occupation. But by what chance are you here, my dear Claus?"—"It will be too long to give you a recital of my adventures now," answered I; "but I must entreat the favour of you to tell my companion who I am, and in what situation you formerly knew me."

M. Lippeville declared he was ready to comply with my request, and we all went
into

into a neighbouring hotel, where my old master assured the captain that my name was Peter Claus, and so germanized me with his incontrovertible testimony, that he effectually cleared me of being Dutch. Every thing now explained, the change of dress was charged with being the source of the error. My Mentor was greatly surprized, and much embarrassed at the discovery of this strange mistake, asked me a thousand pardons.

The only difficulty remaining was how to finish this business. After much deliberation, the officer entreated me to accompany him to Holland. My uncle, M. Haftendonk, the father, for whose sake I undertook the enterprize, will not be much obliged to me for the service I have rendered him. I am, notwithstanding, happy

to learn that young Haftendonk is returned to his country, and that he will precede us. My uncle will liberally recompense you for the trouble you have sustained—You love travelling; and besides, it is not so great an evil to marry a young lady of good fortune, if even you should be obliged to keep her: the greatest embarrassment is the child. But why suffer inquietude before its time? All that is to be done is to hasten our departure; let us without loss of time view the curiosities of this capital; the ship will not be long before she is ready for sea."

M. de Lippeville offered to be our conductor, and on the morrow we saw all that was remarkable in Copenhagen; but I should abuse the patience of my readers, if I fatigued them with a description of this place;

place; I therefore prefer giving them the manuscript of Mr. Brick.

Continuation of the Manuscript.

“ My recital, without doubt, will appear incredible, when I say that the climate is very mild under the antarctic pole. The general opinion is, that there is no place where the cold is so excessive. Notwithstanding, we have no right to doubt what we cannot contradict, particularly when we have not seen the object of dispute; and as I am the only European who ever penetrated so far, I have surely the greater right to obtain belief. Should this be denied, and my manuscript treated as falsehood, at least it must be allowed the moral is equally applicable.

“Epicurus pretends that the fun cannot be proved larger than it appears to our eyes. Both ancient and modern writers have found this assertion very absurd. I do not look on it as such. Who knows if the same dimensions which represent a body of such a size to our gross ideas, and which doubtless would appear differently were we otherwise organized—Who knows, I say, if those mathematical principles which appear to us so incontestably true, are applicable in other regions? Who knows, whether in these spaces a body does not appear larger, according as the distance is augmented? You see a tree at a distance from you; you call it a distance, and what is between yourself and the tree a space, because your two gross senses, sight and feeling, do not approach the object sooner, and therefore reckon as air the interval between
yourself

yourself and it. But who can tell whether, were your senses less gross, you would not find this space filled with bodies, and such a chain of material beings between yourself and the tree, that you could no longer look on yourself as a different object, but both that and yourself as parts of the same being. Since there is so much uncertainty in things below, how can we pretend to judge of the globes suspended over our heads?—Therefore let us treat the illuminated, magicians, and speculators, with more indulgence. Do not let us found our felicity on objects beyond our understanding, neither let us dispute upon what we cannot see nor touch*.

“ But

* This Mr. Brick advances some singular thoughts; his reasons however merit attention. The ideas of grandeur, form, figure, colour, distance, &c. &c.

“ But to return to my subject. Nature does not observe the same law under the antarctic pole as in other zones. On traversing the mountains of ice that separate

are in his eyes no more than illusion. To follow this system, the mathematical truths would be rendered uncertain (notwithstanding the general opinion) the moral truths, on the contrary, would be fixed, whether from the harmony between the visible and invisible things they give rise to, or because our duties can only be determined by the measure of our understandings. There may consequently be a number of theological truths that are unknown to us, but we cannot admit practical truths, tho’ according as they are theoretically known. He alone is wise who affirms nothing more than what he has a clear and distinct notion of, who notwithstanding does not deny what he cannot comprehend, but acts uniformly according to his understanding without observing any other line of conduct. Not to follow our own knowledge and conviction, but to do things which we must ourselves disapprove, is the distinguished mark of a corrupt heart.

this

this part of the globe, I found a perpetual spring. Without doubt it is the same under the arctic pole.

“ Though ignorant in regard to the future, and uncertain whether I should meet with any human being, I did not however abandon myself to melancholy reflections. The joy of having escaped the danger of the sea, and the pleasure of contemplating the flowery meadows and fertile country, filled my soul with ineffable delight. Not one trace of industry, or of labour appeared, not one boat along shore, not a plantation or hut; notwithstanding, all the country was furnished with fruit-trees and a variety of plants, but whose species were totally unknown to me; nor did I recollect having ever seen any of the same sort at Otaheite.

“ After

“ After having enjoyed for above an hour this enchanting spectacle, I found myself pressed by hunger. The fine fruit with which the trees were loaded, seemed to invite me to eat ; I did so.—Heavens ! how delicious. My whole frame seemed renovated. A clear spring quenched my thirst. Birds of different species, and a number of quadrupeds hopped and bounded around me ; so far from fear, they seemed to regard me as their protector. A little animal that resembled a squirrel scratched the earth with his claws, brought up a root, and devoured it : having a great inclination to taste, I likewise dug up one ; it had an agreeable flavour, and appeared very nourishing. After this delicious repast, I was overpowered with sleep. A meadow covered with flowers, that exhilarated the most fragrant odours, served as a bed to rest my
fatigued

fatigued limbs ; I fell asleep immediately, and did not wake for ten or twelve hours.

As soon as I opened my eyes, I perceived with astonishment two human beings, who considered me with attention, and who appeared by their manner to have been viewing me for some time. It was a man and a woman, beautiful as imagination could paint, their complexions of a most dazzling clearness, with long hair flowing upon their shoulders ; they were tall and majestic, their limbs exquisitely formed, and exposed to the eyes in all their natural beauty, not having any other cloathing than a kind of girdle ; their looks were mild, full of sweetness, dignity, and goodness ; being strangers to passion, their features were free from wrinkles, and their bodies nervous, robust, and strong: the
image

image of their Creator shone on their fronts serene. So much grandeur and majesty dazzled me; I could scarce support the sight; I rose quickly, and bowing before them, made them understand by signs that a violent tempest had thrown me upon their coast, and entreated their protection. The young man comprehended me; offered his hand, and made signs for me to go with them. On our way, he talked much with the female: I did not comprehend what he said, but I remarked, notwithstanding, to my very great surprize, that it was a species of idiom approaching to the Hebrew, having formerly taken some lessons in that language, in order to understand the books of accompts and other documents of the Jews, which were intrusted to my care, though, for want of practice, it was almost obliterated from my memory: yet the language
of

of these savages appeared more harmonious than that of the Israelites. But how can I term those savage who are mild, humane, compassionate, and pupils of simple nature? Europeans, corrupt and barbarous! Is it just to bestow such names on those who do not imitate your depravity?

“ My conductors surveyed my habiliments, half Dutch and half Otaheitan, with more pity than admiration; never was my European pride so compleatly humbled as when I saw with what little estimation these unadorned beings considered a man who came from a part of the globe that boasts its knowledge over the rest of the world, civilizing distant countries, by attempting to force them to found their felicity on what the deranged heads of Europe have prescribed as articles of faith.

“ We

“ We presently arrived at a charming valley, and here and there a number of huts presented themselves, offering a delightful variety to the view; these edifices were contrived with extreme simplicity. Edifices did I say? Rather the boughs of fruit trees, that were so ingeniously interwoven, as to form agreeable dwellings. The old men were seated at the entrance of their harbours, rejoicing at the beautiful aspect of Nature, and at the playful innocence of their posterity, the grown children being employed in bodily exercises, while the younger were busied in gathering flowers, and forming them into nosegays; all bearing the portrait of health, joy, and innocence.

As we passed before the huts, the young people ran out in crowds; they considered

me

ne with surprize, looking at each other with inquietude ; signifying by their gestures, that they thought me sick or half dead. Their fathers without shewing an unpardonable curiosity contented themselves with questioning my conductors about me ; then returning to their occupations or amusements. Their labours were easy ; for possessing no imaginary wants, they were not necessitated to supply them by the sweat of their brows.

“ We approached a hut ; at the entrance sat an old man and his wife ; they were the parents of my conductors, and received me with kindness, having informed themselves of our meeting ; the children brought us fruit and roots of delicious taste, and likewise an exquisite drink in the shell of a coconut.

“ As

“As I think it unnecessary to enter into an exact detail of all I saw remarkable during my short stay in this charming country; I shall only give a general account of what is most curious among these unknown people.

“In a short time, I comprehended their language, which was accompanied by the most expressive gestures, when they gave me the following account of their origin, manners, and customs.

“One of the sons of Adam, conducted by an angel, and accompanied by his sister, who was also his wife, took refuge in these parts about the time of the fall of our first parents, and formed a colony of uncorrupted mortals. They were preserved from the Deluge, followed the patriarchal regimen,

men, purity of manners, and the true worship of the Divinity : every father is king and priest in his own family : men free from corruption and vice, who having never sullied the sacred image of the Creator, dared alone to approach his altar. Subject to death like other mortals, but exempt from maladies and infirmities, a mild sleep served as a passage into eternity, for which they were prepared by a long course of virtue. Fruits were their sole nourishment ; a mild and tranquil sleep served to re-animate their bodies with fresh vigour. A soft rain and gentle dew fertilized their soil, equally free from excessive heat or rigorous cold——
How happy !—No sickness !—No pain !—
No interruption of felicity !—No separate property !—No luxury !—No passions !—
No princes !—and, what is more than all, no priests !

“ But

“ But this felicity could not have been of long continuance, if the Supreme Being had not separated this terrestrial paradise from other continents by mountains of impenetrable ice.

“ But it was impossible to stay any length of time among these happy people. I felt myself too weak to attain that degree of perfection possessed by them. Pupil of corruption! Affailed by every gross and tumultuous passion, how should I ever have attained that calm and uninterrupted peace, true source of harmony to the soul, the body, and the mind.

“ One day a venerable old man called me into his cabin, and pressing me affectionately by the hand, addressed me thus : “ Unhappy stranger,” said he, “ thou art afflicted,

afflicted, because thou art not so perfect as
us ; but despair not, my friend ; if thou
worthily fulfillest thy duties on earth, thou
wilt rise to a higher degree of perfection in
the life to come.

“ Our law does not permit thee to re-
main longer amongst us ; the wise Creator
has ordained, that thou shouldst explore
other parts, then return to thy country,
quit thy mortal frame, and be re-united
to thy fathers. Take this fruit ; it will
plunge thee into a profound sleep, and on
thy awaking thou wilt discover things sur-
passing expectation.”

At the same time he gave me a red
grape, which I eat, and my senses were
quickly overwhelmed with sleep. At the
moment of my awaking——

I had

I had just got to this part of my friend Brick's story, when I was interrupted by the entrance of the Captain—his visit was at this time unwished for—and I put the manuscript into my pocket.

CHAP. VI.

*Peter writes to Reyerberg—An Adventure—
Departure for Holland.*

“WELL, my dear Claus,” said the captain, “all is settled, we are ready to put to sea. To-morrow we will view what is curious in the city; this evening we give to mirth; and suppose we invite the chattering Frenchman (M. Lippeville I believe is his name) to sup with us; he has travelled much, and will amuse us with his anecdotes—What think you?”

“With all my heart,” returned I, “send for him; but first allow me the indulgence of a few moments. I must write a short letter.”

VOL. II.

E

Having

Having quitted the officer, I sat down to write to my friend Reyerberg; who must have been much surprized to find M. Brick dead, and not able to discover a trace of my existence; to end this embarrassment, I gave him a detail of my adventures, and promised to return to Hamburg as soon as I had finished my business in Holland, and consigned my wife to the true father of the child. At the same time I told him of the manuscript, that precious gift which I inherited from our common friend; a manuscript that might make both our fortunes, though from the part I had seen, it appeared not of a nature to make me hope to procure any advantage from it, by offering it to princes thirsty of power and conquest. Nay, perhaps, it was nothing more than a political romance; at least I judged it nothing else. Besides,

the discovery of a country where vice and luxury were unknown, and where innocence and liberty only reigned, could offer nothing tempting to our sovereigns. There are likewise other reasons why it would not prove an attractive kingdom to European tyrants; for what means could despotism use to get established there? Or how could they adopt that political chimera, that millions of men of understanding are to obey one inferior in that point, unless that one could render himself indispensably necessary to them? And how can he do so, since they have none of those wants that are in his power to satisfy? They are content with the fruits of the earth; and if they are deprived of one corner, will seek another to dwell in safety. Or what importance would the conquest of a country be to the kings of Europe, detached from the rest of the

world by almost impenetrable barriers? What importance to them could the submission of a people be who are protected by superior beings from refinement and corruption; a people who are happy without gold, silver, or priests?

I had just finished my letter, and was going to order a light to seal it, when somebody rapped softly at the door; I opened it, and was surprized to see a young handsome girl, with hair of a bright chesnut, and fine black eyes. She addressed me in French—"Pardon me, Sir, I believe I am mistaken."—"No, certainly not, a pretty girl can never mistake when she comes to see me; please to walk in."—Excuse me, Sir, I wanted my father-in-law."—"Who is he?"—"M. Lippeville, Sir, at your service; I thought he was here, but as he

is not, you will excuse me, Sir." She was then about to return. "Why are you in such haste?"—"In the name of Heaven, permit me to retire, my father is severe; and if he finds me alone with a man, what will he say?"—These words, in some measure, gave me to understand to what kind of girl I was speaking. I believe I do not wrong the greatness of M. Lippeville in supposing that she had been sent for the purpose of amusing me, and at the same time to procure a few ducats in return; at least he was the sort of man to justify such an opinion; and I do not doubt, when he boasted of having married so advantageously with a rich widow, the beauty of a young and complaisant daughter was not among the least of his benefits. But I was not now novice enough to run into such a snare; ten or twelve years ago I might have

been taken in. M. Lippeville, without doubt, would have appeared at the interesting moment, with all the rage of an offended parent, ready to revenge the insulted honor of his daughter, and have made me pay dearly for the pleasure of the moment. Experience, (besides, I did not dare violate conjugal fidelity) experience, I say, made me observe a modest deportment. Notwithstanding, we are assured by the Apostle Paul, and Yorick, (though I do not know they were ever in the same predicament) that the Devil is an adversary always ready to play us fly tricks. I therefore thought proper to guard against temptation; for when we have not lived at Court, the flesh is weak at thirty-seven. I took the precaution to leave the door ajar; willing, at least, to have appearances in my favour.

“ Sit

"Sit down a moment at least," said I; she complied, after some little hesitation. When virtue, caprice, necessity or fear, engages us to sacrifice to an illicit pleasure, we cannot be satisfied with the idea of having acted uprightly, but we must make it a matter of boast, and repair the loss of an enjoyment, by proceedings which we think will gain us praise, and feed our vanity. Thus we make one passion combat another. Happy the man who possesses the secret to animate them to destroy each other. To dismiss the young lady coolly, saying that her father had not been with me, and to add politely, that I was concerned at the useless trouble she had taken, doubtless would have been sufficient; but knowing the design, and sensible that I must observe a certain distance, I was willing to recompense myself for this con-

straint, by the glory of endeavouring to convert a girl that had strayed into the paths of vice. Full of this idea, I took her hand, asked her age, occupation, the state of her heart, and if I could be serviceable to her in any thing? At this last question she gratefully pressed my hand, and replied, "I am nineteen; I live with my mother; she is not rich enough to dress me like girls of my own age, to attract the notice of men; besides, I do not wish to marry; I love liberty; did my heart know any engagement, I would not venture myself alone with so amiable a gentleman."

I perceived that this was a proper time to begin my lecture, and replied to her in a confidential tone, "My dear child, I perfectly comprehend you; I know too much of the world not to understand, it is

not

not entirely an aversion to men that inspires you with a dislike to the yoke of Hymen. It is true liberty is a rare advantage; but to be entirely free and independent, it is necessary to possess more abundantly the gifts of fortune than falls to your lot: without this, necessity frequently throws us into a state of dependence on those who are richer than ourselves, and who expect in return a right of demanding things contrary to probity and honor. If we have not the power to resist, repentance, a constitution enervated by the poison of illicit pleasures, a wounded conscience, remorse attending the infirmities of an early old age, accompanied by misery, contempt, and despair, never fail to follow a weak and dishonourable compliance. These, my dear child, are some of the evils to which want may lead us, if we do not en-

deavour to avoid them by industry and vigilance. Vice has faded the lustre of many cheeks beautiful as your's." At the conclusion of my speech, I gently took her hand, my virtue ran no risk, for the zeal of the conversation, accompanied by the ambition of recovering a wandering soul to the paths of virtue, had entirely banished every idea of sensuality.

The young girl cast down her eyes with confusion; a tear of shame and vexation fell on her right hand, which was inclosed in my left—"Do not let the picture I have just drawn alarm you," added I; with your beauty and merit, want cannot assail, if virtue and industry direct your steps. The reputation of your prudence will soon be spread in the neighbourhood, from thence throughout the city. Examples
of

of economical and virtuous women are scarce; if you augment the small number, your alliance will be sought by men of wealth and understanding: you will then crown the wishes of him you think most worthy, become an affectionate wife, and tender mother, dispensing happiness through a whole family. When time shall fade the roses of your complexion, the esteem and love of your friends and relations will open before you a new scene of happiness. Exempt from reproach, free from pain, and bodily maladies, you will enjoy satisfaction to the last hour. All those who have been witnesses of your happiness will bless your memory, and recount your virtues to posterity."

"Ah, Sir," cried she, "you pierce my heart; would to Heaven—" She appeared

too much affected to say more. "Well, my dear child," said I, "instead of this sudden and momentary emotion, I shall be much better pleased for my discourse to make a durable impression."

I had a little stone ring of small value, with my cypher. I own I had bought it with an intention of bestowing it as the price of an action less meritorious. "Accept," said I, "this ring as a remembrance; and if ever you are in danger of doing any thing contrary to the principles of those truths with which you were so affected, look at this ring, and remember the exhortations of a man who wishes you well." I then saluted, and with a modest and respectful attention, conducted her to the door.

Bravo!

Bravo I friend Peter, thou hast done a good action, and hast experienced so much satisfaction and content, that it will be well worth thy while to repeat it as often as possible; that thou mayst frequently feel the pleasure that attaches itself to the practice of virtue. Notwithstanding, had I been without fear of fresh embarrassments, and my profelyte had not been the daughter of the artful Frenchman—But why examine into the source of our virtues and sacrifices—I, vanquished my desires—was not that sufficient?—I sealed my letter, and sent it to the post; after which I joined the captain, who was waiting for me. M. de Lippeville came about an hour after.

Our supper was exceedingly cheerful; the approbation of conscience, renders the heart susceptible to mirth. The features of

our

our visitors at first were serious and thoughtful; perhaps his daughter had related our conversation, but as I made no mention of it, the wine by degrees smoothed the brow of the old sinner, so that at length he became cheerful enough to relate the different occurrences of his life.

M. de Lippeville from his youth had been willing to transact any kind of business for money. When he was servant to the captain of French hussars, his master formed the project of marrying the daughter of a very wealthy merchant; M. Lippeville therefore gave him out for a rich French marquis, and having engaged some rogues like himself, he denominated them valets de chambre, footmen, huntsmen, &c. &c. of his lordship. He also forged letters, pretending to receive them from

the steward, respecting the estate of his master (situated in the moon). These letters mentioned the state of the revenue, and the expence for buildings and pensions, pointing out to M. le Marquis the sums he had received from his farmers during the year. The old merchant fell into the snare, giving his daughter (who had before hand taken care to provide an heir to the family) to the rich warrior, who in reality was nothing more than a gambling adventurer.

Some time after the marriage, Lippeville formed rather too intimate an acquaintance with the marchioness; and being discovered, was soundly threshed by his master, and sent about his business with disgrace.

It

It was after quitting this place that he entered into the service of the Danish envoy, then resident at Paris; here he learned the elements of that language which was afterwards so useful to him. His exquisite skill in procuring pretty women for his excellency obtained him the place of secretary to a cardinal, who could neither read nor write. All the time which his eminence did not pass in bed, at table, or in particular intimacy with a young man of seventeen (whose heart and mind he was endeavouring to form) was spent in catching of flies, cutting off their wings, and gluing little paper figures on their backs, which the poor animals thus tortured were forced to drag along, to the great diversion of M^r le Cardinal. Lippeville was extremely well satisfied with his situation, accompanied his master to Italy, saw all the curiosities

curiosities of that fine country, crept up the *Scala Santa* on his knees, and at length made the tour of Europe, in company with his eminence's cousin, under the name of *Capitane de Lippeville*.

After the decease of the young lord, who died in consequence of his gallantry at Aix, he shared the property with the domestics. At Spa the game of pharo deprived him of all but the pension which he had purchased, and that he also lost afterwards. The seventh chapter of the first volume contains the remainder of his adventures.

It was beyond midnight when we separated. The day following I employed in visiting the principal curiosities of the city.

We

We may have seen a great many countries without gaining information from our travels; a reflection I entirely felt the force of. Notwithstanding the shortness of our stay in the capital of Denmark, had we been accompanied by a man of learning, he would not have failed to fix our attention on several objects, which might have given us an idea of the national character, manners, and degree of improvement of the inhabitants. But the old vagabond who was our guide had no such idea; he shewed us the statue of Leda on the Isle of *Amal*, between Copenhagen and Christian's-haven, the citadel of Frederick's-haven, the castle of the city, which is truly magnificent, and worthy the attention of strangers, and the famous hospital of Wharton, that our conductor would never have mentioned, if, loving to recal to my memory the weak-

ness

ness of human nature, I had not questioned him concerning the hospitals and charities. This institution merits particular attention, as it contains more than three hundred beds. But I promised in the preceding chapter to spare you a wearisome description of Copenhagen, and an honest man should ever keep his word.

We returned in the evening, fatigued with our walks about the city, took leave of our *Cicerone*, went on board next morning at six, and sailed for Holland.

CHAP. VII.

Peter continues his Manuscript during the Voyage.

THE mildness of the weather appeared to promise us a happy voyage; all tried to amuse themselves; punch, cards, and tobacco, were employed for that purpose. Notwithstanding, towards evening, I drew out my manuscript, and read as follows.

Continuation of M. Brick's Manuscript.

“When I awoke, I found myself in the very same spot where I had disembarked the day of my arrival in this fortunate country, and equally faint with hunger as

I then

I then was—All that I had seen and heard appeared as a dream. Could hunger and weariness, thought I, throw me into so deep a sleep, that the two persons whom I imagined conducted me to their delightful dwellings, and presented to my sight an innocent and truly happy nation, should be no more than false pictures, and the sport of imagination? Who dare decide to the contrary? There is so little to be depended on, even in our waking ideas, that it is impossible to convince others of the existence of an object which they have not seen. The most learned men dispute daily on things that they affirm having experienced, and observed with the greatest care. But does not the clear-sighted man distinguish what is imperceptible to him whose sight is weak? Does not the astronomer with his tube contemplate other worlds? Must the plurality

plurality of persons unanimous in sustaining the same thing decide in those cases? If so, doubtless the number of those who have seen and believe in apparitions will prove their existence? If the judgment of the clear-sighted is to be taken before that of others, who would not wish to pass for such? However it may be, *I think I saw all I have related*, though I would prefer its being a dream.—What happiness to meet with such a charming country!—but what grief so soon to quit it!

“As I informed you, I found myself in the same place, and faint with hunger. Rising to view the country, what was my astonishment to find that it was not uncultivated, as it had first appeared to me, but that all along the shore, on the sides of the hills, among the fields, woods, and valleys,

fies, were dispersed a great number of towns and villages. From whence could this change arise? It appears that I am transported on the coast of Europe—it is immaterial, I will advance.

“The pangs of hunger caused me to seek for food; and having gone forward about a hundred paces, I discovered a garden surrounded with pallisades; I could not resist the inclination of gathering some of the fruit which loaded the trees. Acting according to the dictates of want, I passed the rails, and beat down a large apple, which I devoured with the utmost avidity. I had hardly done this, when I heard a terrible voice behind me, exclaiming in the language of the inhabitants of the islands near the antarctic pole, “Curst robber! may all the sorrows of life light on thee!

What

What business hast thou in my garden?" I looked hastily behind me, and discovered a man dressed from head to foot, but in so ridiculous a manner, that I was astonished. His dress consisted in a number of little pieces, which so entirely disfigured his shape and features, that he presented the most grotesque and laughable appearance.

"Generous man," said I, "forgive me; it is so long since I tasted food, that the acuteness of my hunger forced me to seize your property. I am also a stranger, and was ignorant that the gardens belonged to any person in particular, having lately been accustomed to a country where the gifts of Nature are in common."

The Man. It is not so here; we are obliged to pay heavy taxes, or how would our

erif

erif (thus those islanders call their sovereigns) support the expence of those curious foreign animals which he sends for to such a distance, in order to amuse himself with their antics?

“*Brick.* Is it possible that, to furnish amusements to your erif, you labour with the sweat of your brow, and are necessitated to refuse a little nourishment to a stranger fainting with hunger?

“*The Man.* Softly, softly, stranger; I pardon you this time, but in future be careful to speak with more respect of our gracious sovereign. Murmurs are useless; it is not the fault of our prince; he is only ten years old. But if in reality you have been long without food, I have sufficient to appease your hunger.”

“We entered into his cottage ; where-
ever I turned my eyes there were the marks
of poverty ; the furniture old and broken ;
a wife and six children covered with rags—
bags of dried leaves serving the whole fa-
mily for beds.

“*The Man.* Do not be astonished at
these outward marks of misery—There was
a time when our situation was happier, but
the taxes with which we are loaded have re-
duced us to the cruel necessity of selling one
thing after another, to pay the king’s du-
ties*. There is some of our common
food, (it was a paste made with the flour
of a plant, mixed with water, and baked
in the oven) eat as much as you please, the

* To render it more clear, I shall use the words
king, minister, and farmers-general.

Author’s Note.

gods

gods will return it to me—Do you believe in the immortals?

“*Brick.* I believe in one at least; but how can you ask that question?

“*The Man.* Why, I supposed you came from the capital, where the existence of a Divinity is no longer believed; for if the ministers thought that there were Gods who punish wickedness, they would not treat us so cruelly. I myself knead the paste you are eating, and grow in my own fields the grain of which it is composed; notwithstanding, for each bushel I gather I am obliged to give the sovereign a stone* by way of tax.

* A particular kind of precious stone, which is found at a prodigious depth in the earth, and that slaves procure at the utmost hazard, passed here instead

Brick. How can you bear such oppression? You informed me you sovereign was a child, and it is against nature to obey an infant; it is unjust that so many millions of men should labour to furnish one with frivolous amusements. Leave this giddy boy to grow up, and choose a respectable old man for your chief.

The Man. Ah, you know nothing of the matter; I find you are indeed a stranger. The instant the old sovereign dies, his son, however young, takes his place.

of money, If a subject discovered any on his lands, he was obliged to deliver them to the royal treasury, as all those stones, visible or invisible, belonged to the prince. Several slaves have lost their lives in seeking them in the bowels of the earth.

Author's Note.

Brick.

Brick. That custom I perfectly understand, though it is not the less ridiculous ; but if you are satisfied, I have no reason to be otherwise ; yet if the greater number of the subjects are dissatisfied, it is in their power to suppress what too weak an indulgence first introduced. How ridiculous to obey an infant, who perhaps cannot yet speak.

“ *The Man.* Oh, yes, our prince can speak ; but at the bottom it is not himself who governs ; it is his mother, a priest, and the first cook. These three people do what they please in the name of the young king, and we are the dupes ; they tax us above our power, under pretence of supporting the foreign animals in the king’s menagerie, while, on the contrary, it is the old matron, the priest, and the cook, who dis-

sipate the nation's treasure, and squander what they obtain from our labour.

“ *Brick.* Well, I may boast of my country, where such imposition is unknown; it is most unheard-of abomination.

“ *The Man.* All this is nothing; when you advance farther in the country, you will yet see stranger things.

“ *Brick.* Heaven defend me! I will leave you. Accept my thanks for your hospitality; Providence, I hope, will requite you. To compleat your charity, inform me of the nearest road to the frontiers.

“ *The Man.* Oh, you will soon reach them, and though you walk but moderately,

rately, you will cross the states of four sovereigns before the going down of the sun. Every one of these little kings has a right to chop off your head, if you say any thing to incur their displeasure.

“ *Brick.* Four countries to pass! I shall surely meet one where the people are happy. Adieu, my friend. Continuing my way, I soon reached another sovereignty. By the side of a field, I met a countryman overwhelmed with melancholy. “ Tell me,” said I, “ why this country is so barren and uncultivated? Is it occasioned by the ravages of war?”—“ No,” replied the villager, “ it is the large wild mice that make this destruction in the night.”—— “ Is there no means to extirpate them?”— “ Oh, no, we must not attempt it; they furnish our prince with his most favourite

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amusement;

amusement; he has them brought here from all parts, and unhappy would that subject be that should dare molest them; in himself alone lies the privilege of killing them. To-morrow there will be a great slaughter, as our lord goes a hunting. He is a handsome man, mild and affable; a number of slaves will be set on foot to catch these mice, and whoever procures three will obtain his liberty; but those who fail will be forced to race until they drop down dead, a sight that affords the utmost amusement to our good king; you cannot form an idea of his mirth at this spectacle.”

“Abominable mirth!” exclaimed I; “pray direct me the nearest road out of these territories.”

The countryman did so, and I redoubled my pace to reach the neighbouring state; which

which I had hardly entered, when I perceived a man posted near the limits, armed with a bow and arrows, who called to me in a terrible voice—"Stop, stop; who are you? To arms, comrades, to arms! Here is the enemy!—Halloo, courage!—Tell me instantly who you are."—"A poor, defenceless, innocent traveller."—"If so, advance, friend; pass without fear. Good day." I advanced, smiling—"But tell me," said I, "why this terrible noise. Is the enemy in the country?"—"No, certainly," replied the redoubtable warrior; "you see that my bow is unstrung; we act thus, in order not to lose the custom of arms, in case we should go to war. Our sovereign loves the noise of camps and war-like manœuvres; he has never any battles to fight, does no one mischief; notwithstanding, he is partial to the bloody games

of Bellona. In the night he wakes suddenly, leaps from his bed, crying, 'Halloo ! to arms ! we have reached the enemy ; kill, massacre all you meet.' For our parts, we are obliged to act the same."—"Doubtless, you are well paid for your trouble?"—"But moderately ; every two days we receive a large piece of paste, but half of it we are obliged to make into bullets, which we throw at each other every morning for an hour, to imitate a battle, our prince joining with us in the sport. We have but little paste remaining for the second day, therefore it is a kind of a fast, but then we have nothing to do. Have you an inclination to lift into the troops of our sovereign?"—"Heaven preserve me, my friend—is the next principality far distant?"—"No, you will reach it in an hour." I had no sooner quitted him, than he began
exclaiming

exclaiming—Halloo, comrades! mind your guard, the enemy is near—Good journey, friend.”

“ I was almost tempted to believe that I was travelling through a country of mad-men ; as I advance, perhaps, thought I, I may meet with sovereigns more enlightened and wise—But who is that who sighs and groans so piteously beside me ? It was a poor woman who was weeping with the utmost bitterness ; her only son had been torn from her to send to the prince. “ My son,” said she, “ was my only hope and comfort ; he has laboured with so much industry since the death of his father, that he entirely maintained me and his two little sisters. I shall now be obliged to cultivate my fields by my own weak labour ; for I am not rich enough to purchase or support

a slave; yet my rates and taxes will still continue the same; they are laid upon our lands, and I must pay, though by the loss of my son deprived of the means of cultivating them to advantage."

I asked her of what essential service her son could be to the monarch? She was astonished at the question. "Is it possible you should be uninformed?"—"Why, it is not easy to divine."—Well then, I will tell you. Our erif keeps twenty thousand players on the lyre, all of the same height; his territories being small, he finds it difficult to assemble so many men of a size. He might employ strangers, but they must be paid; and his own subjects are necessitated to become musicians without recompence. His capital is magnificent, and well peopled, for the streets are crowded with

with the players on the lyre, but the country is in the most deplorable situation; the women till and cultivate the ground, at the same time depriving themselves of necessities, in order to carry food to the city for their sons, brothers, or cousins, for fear the poor musicians should die of hunger.—

(Such are the caprices of the princes near the pole. Happily it is not so in Europe.)

The strongest men being thus employed, the people become dispirited, and lose their industry. By degrees the musicians become accustomed to their situation, thinking themselves happy to continue therein; for should their health be impaired, or their physiognomy happen to displease the erif, he dismisses them, leaving them the choice of robbing, at risk of the gibbet, or perishing with hunger. You will doubtless ask if this puissant protector of the players on the

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the lyre is a great musician? No: he understands nothing of music, nor can any one conceive his reason for assembling such a number of Orpheus's round him.

I hastened to quit this harmonious abode, but met with a misfortune in the attempt. The government, instead of providing labour for the most industrious, took infinite pains to impoverish the subjects; but had, notwithstanding, made excellent humane regulations against beggars. If they found any one entreating assistance, they immediately caused them to be transported to the frontiers by guards. Admirable institution!—first to rob them with impunity of their purse, and then to forbid them to ask back a small pittance of their own money. Happily, as I said before, this country was not large, otherwise they might have

have marched a man guilty of beggary until he dropped down dead with fatigue and hunger. I had nearly experienced that fate, for I had exhausted myself so entirely with walking, that I fainted, and fell at the door of a house, where I entreated a resting place and a little food. The magistrate, in spite of my earnest entreaties, instantly ordered me to be thrown into a cart, in which I was jolted from village to village, till I reached the territories of a neighbouring prince, where I was thrown on the ground in the open country, and left in the greatest distress.

“ Faint with hunger, and sinking with fatigue, I was more than an hour in dragging my weary limbs to a neighbouring hut. A generous and respectable old man, decently cloathed, drew near to me, and, moved

moved with compassion, led me gently towards his habitation. He took particular care of me, and my strength began to return in about twenty-four hours.

“ I expressed my gratitude to my benefactor : but for him I should have fallen a victim to the excellent police of the puissant protector of the players on the lyre. The man who had so generously saved my life was what is called among us a school-master ; he instructed the country youths, teaching them with the utmost zeal, but extraordinary simplicity ; he early taught the children to know their duties, and to enjoy the satisfaction of doing a good action ; he bred them to a love of labour, order, application, and economy, thus forming an important class of citizens, who acquire all, support all, and on which the general

neral felicity depends. This person was therefore one of the most useful members of the state, and I naturally concluded, that from the throne to the lowest of the subjects, all must treat with respect the man who fixed the foundation on an instructed and industrious generation. How greatly was I deceived!—The monarch thought of nothing but his pleasures, neglected the sacred duties of his throne, banishing every thing that might give rise to reflection or serious ideas. He entertained a large company of rope-dancers and tumblers, who were daily obliged to repeat their tricks in his presence. These jugglers were richly paid, honored, and esteemed. The first female performer of the company had ninety-five times as much salary as the respectable old man before-mentioned; besides, the profession of a school-master was held

held in universal difesteem. He did not dare address the great ; even the commonalty of the capital looked on him with disdain. In general, throughout the whole of this country, which was extensive, neither merit was rewarded nor places given for the common utility, but after the most ridiculous prejudices. There were few men of understanding who would undertake the important employments ; and for school-masters, they admitted none but those who undertook the charge at the lowest price. Those situations were usually filled by the lowest and most ignorant of mankind ; for even did a skilful candidate offer, who determined to adopt this kind of life, from goodness of heart, or by necessity, the emoluments attached to it were so small, that it cut off all means of shewing his talents, and frequently forced him for subsistence

sistence to have recourse to some mean and vulgar employment. This abuse was never attempted to be removed, for the government could not condescend to look into the instruction of the people. Public tuition was therefore intrusted to the inspection of a certain order, who had usurped the title of the *true priests of the Divinity*, whose interest was rather to keep the people in ignorance than to improve their understanding: thus they took care to throw powerful obstacles in the way of education. The greater part of the school-masters were their creatures, and necessitated to follow their plans, or otherwise totally ignorant. Added to this, instruction was to be given by invariable rules; instead of directing the attention of the child to gentleness, the duties of society, and the beauties of beneficent Nature, they fatigued their memories
for

for fifteen years with absurd and unintelligible systems, invented by interested and artful people. Misery to the child who should have endeavoured to follow its own understanding—misery to the master who should have endeavoured to adopt any other method of instruction!—In the name of a good, tolerant, and merciful Creator, they would have pursued them to the grave. My host was enregistred in the catalogue of the reprov'd by these bronzes, his reputation of probity, and whole stock of prudence were scarcely sufficient to defend him from the snares spread for his *heterodoxy*, which was the name given to good sense in this country.

The law invented by these priests, to whom this vast part of the globe, and the criss themselves, were obliged to submit,
went

went so far as to forbid them tasting particular food, or labouring at useful employments on certain days they chose to nominate.

“ One particular set of the subjects had not submitted to this ridiculous law, determining only to act according to their conviction; a crime that was punished by the most cruel oppression; obliged in some measure to pay for the air they breathed, generally despised, condemned, and declared incapable of holding any place in the state; they would have been extirpated, had not the interest of the princes preserved their existence. Notwithstanding the injustice they were guilty of towards them, they were useful to their country, not deserting their homes, but leading a regular and quiet life, following the customs of
their

their fathers, not troubling themselves with the affairs of the state, patient in misfortune, laborious, active, and temperate, having among them men of understanding and philosophers. The unworthy proceedings of the rest of the nation towards them was not proper to inspire them with attachment; it rather excited mutual hatred, giving room to dishonourable actions.— They were accused of taking part in all the thefts committed; the greater part of these oppressed subjects followed the profession of usurers, nor was it to be wondered at, they were deprived of every means of gaining an honest subsistence, and themselves devoted to public disdain.

The offices of state, as I before remarked, are not bestowed according to the degrees of utility, but by the most ridiculous prejudices.

judices. Among others there was an order of distinguished citizens, who held the first rank after the princes; they were called the *bowing heads*: certain families looked on this as a prerogative, and took particular pride in proving, that their fathers carried their heads in the same manner, and had never married women without a similar propensity. Their ancestors had probably served their country, and their contemporaries, out of gratitude, had given them the appellation of the *bowing heads*, as a mark of distinction. The esteem of the people, the careful education bestowed on their children, and perhaps the riches acquired by their talents and valour, aided to transmit the veneration to their posterity which themselves had enjoyed; the mothers, attentive to revive in their children the image of their illustrious ancestors, bent their heads forward

forward as soon as they were born. But this distinction soon degenerated into abuse, as the latter descendants, proud of the high esteem they acquired from their fathers, thought there was no occasion for them to imitate their virtues, therefore contented themselves by proving their resemblance by the *bowing head* alone. By the most fatal blindness, the state did not only continue to these descendants the privilege, granted to their fathers (which was in some means justifiable) but also gave them fresh prerogatives, both political and moral, due only to real merit and talents. Thus the first dignities of the state were granted to none but the *bowing heads*; the most respectable, wise, or enlightened old man was necessitated to subsist on a slender income, because his head was erect, and obliged to obey an ignorant noble, who was richly paid

paid for what he did not do. These men imagined themselves so much above the rest, that they also sought to distinguish their party by the most expensive appearance. The luxury with which they were surrounded frequently deranged their affairs, notwithstanding the privileges and immunities which they enjoyed, yet prejudice was so powerful in their favour, that the rich, wise, and enlightened man, whose head was naturally erect, frequently bent it to the earth before an ignorant and indigent noble. To protect their foolish pride, there reigned among them so similar a spirit, that they admitted none but equals into their societies. The vanity of some weak men led them, even at an advanced age, to attempt to bend their heads, in order that they might be admitted into those wearisome and vain-glorious assemblies,

where pride and arrogant poverty predominated. Others took this step from constraint, for the advancement of their families, though they felt the folly of it. For several ages the princes had taken care to keep alive this prejudice. Some feeling that their merits did not render them worthy of the situation where their birth had placed them, wished to assemble round them people of weak talents and little knowledge. Men of understanding would too sensibly have made them feel their inferiority. On the contrary, skilful sovereigns took care not to reform this abuse, as the custom of bowing cost them nothing, and was likewise a powerful means of gaining artful men, who might serve as instruments to their despotic plans. Notwithstanding, it must be allowed, that there were some men of peculiar merit among the *bowing heads,*

heads, that were exceptions to the general rule, and doubly esteemed, as they were of the distinguished class.

“ Nature had by chance inclined my head to stoop, and I could not conceive, before I was acquainted with the true reason, why every one paid me such particular attention; for when I accompanied the school-master in the street, the people appeared to pity me, or rather to blame me for condescending so greatly; they even began to doubt the reality of my extraction, doubtless wishing me to submit to the ingrafted prejudice of sacrificing continually my own enjoyments to perpetual commerce with the *bowing heads*; thus giving up the advantage acquired by the acquaintance of men of understanding and learning, and throwing away the hours of

which I must one day give an account. These customs appear strange to us civilized Europeans, the recital is nevertheless true. They possessed also a number of folies which I shall not here repeat, but content myself with describing two or three.

“ The vast country where I now was, adjoined another no less extensive, called *Vent-i-ti*, and which was inhabited by a people whose manners and national character was totally different from those among whom I dwelt; they had frequently made hostile irruption on the possessions of the last, pillaging and sacking them, in spite of the rights of men and the most sacred treaties. In consequence, there reigned the most inveterate hatred between the *Si-mi-chi-reens* (the name of the people among whom I dwelt) and the *Vent-i-ti-tiens*, the latter

latter of whom were so proud and vain-glorious, that they despised every other nation on the earth, and particularly their neighbours. If they wished to describe a blockhead, they called him a Si-mi-chi-reen, notwithstanding which, the Si-mi-chi-reens were mean enough to approve and imitate whatever the Vent-i-ti-tiens undertook, spoke, or wore. This ridiculous folly of their neighbours diverted the latter, who did not fail to invent daily some new whimsey, laughing heartily when they saw the princes and nobles of the Si-mi-chi-reens endeavouring who should first adopt this new foppery. This passion predominated so far, that did the vilest of the Vent-i-ti-tiens repair to the Si-mi-chi-reens, he was both sure of success and protection. The sovereign and the *bowing heads* spoke no language but the Vent-i-ti-tien; they

were not even taught their maternal tongue, being forbid to use it from their extreme youth. The Vent-i-ti-tiens had a custom of wrapping up their children in linen cloths.

“A young erif was born at Vent-i-ti; and princes are subject to evacuations as well as other men, the royal infant soiled his linen. The old erif immediately published an edict, by which he commanded all his subjects to wear habits the colour of his son's dirty cloaths. “We shall soon see,” said he, laughing heartily as he signed the order, “all the Si-mi-chi-reens decorated with the filth of my son.” It happened as he had foreseen; for before eight days had elapsed, a Si-mi-chi-reen princess sent an ambassador extraordinary to entreat some of the prince's dirty linen, of which she made
a cloak.

a cloak. One day the nurse of the young Vent-i-ti-tien prince sung a very silly song as she was rocking him to sleep, which being overheard by the old erif, he immediately dispatched an envoy with orders to sing it to the different courts of the Si-mi-chi-reens. From which instant this song became so great a favourite, that the Si-mi-chi-reens paid their compliments to each other in that tune.

“ The king of the Vent-i-ti happened one day to be playing with a domestic animal on his knee, who, regardless of the honor, soiled his majesty; he immediately undressed, and sold his cloaths to a Si-mi-chi-reen prince, who ordered that all who wished preferment at his court should wear the same colour.

"These are among the least follies I heard recited. How much did I wish to return to Europe, exclaiming, "Ah, was I but in Germany, my dear country, I should not see such follies."

CHAP. VIII.

Continuation of the Manuscript—Arrival in Holland.

I HAVE a thousand pardons to entreat of my readers for the weariness I must have occasioned them by M. Brick's manuscript; they would doubtless have preferred that I should continue the recital of my own adventures; I therefore promise them, on the faith of an author, that after the tenth chapter I will say no more of M. Brick or his manuscript. Seated quietly on the deck, in calm weather, contemplating on the vanity of sublunary things, and watching the smoke of my pipe evaporating in air, could I do better than fill the blank this voyage would have left in my

history, than by the singular adventures of my dead friend. They abound with such astonishing events, that although I might have met with uncommon changes of fortune, they would have been nothing, compared to the marvellous ones of M. Brick.

“ The weather was clear and calm, as I before remarked ; but had we met with a storm, on whatever coast we had been thrown, could we have seen more ridiculous things than those described by my friend in the countries near the pole. Had we struck upon a rock and perished, the world would have been ignorant of my adventures ; or had we been cast on a desert island, without resource, we must have drawn lots for the first victim to feed the rest. Suppose it had fallen on me, the recital of so cruel a fate could have given no
one

one pleasure. I shall therefore pursue my plan, and transcribe the continuation of my friend's history.

Continuation of M. Brick's Manuscript.

“ I should have looked on the strange things I heard from the school-master as fabulous, had I been informed of them by any other person. I entreated him to let me witness some of those whimsical customs he had described; and as he happened at that time to be called to the capital, in order to answer the ecclesiastical council the complaints alledged against him, he appeared willing to grant my request. He was accused of saying to one of his pupils that good example was more profitable than the sermons of twenty preachers; a speech he was ordered to justify.

“ We began our journey; and in our way had to go through some small towns, where I had occasion to remark the ridiculous imitation of the customs and manners of the Vent-i-ti-tiens, the rage for which had penetrated even into the villages, the inhabitants running in crowds to the capital, to sell at a low rate their warm and durable cloaths, in order to purchase others of a less lasting quality, but made in the fashion, and of the same colour as the Vent-i-ti-tien prince's dirty linen.

The judge of a borough, whose appointment was moderate, but who sold justice for gold, in order to lead a life of more splendour, sent for a Vent-i-ti-tien cook, commanding that no other language should be spoke in his house. The sovereign kept a mistress of that nation, laughing openly

at

at fidelity, domestic duty, and the bands of Hymen ; thus his example had banished peace, concord, piety, and virtue, from the families of his subjects.

“ I was informed that all the princes in general of this part of the world favoured luxury, corruption of manners, want of probity, and a taste for pleasures, in order to reign with more despotism. A nation held by such frivolous bonds is soon disunited, for its attention is easily turned from serious and important matters to amusing trifles. Subject to a number of imaginary wants, the monarch flatters or neglects them according to his liking, as they are chains which confine weak minds in his power ; thus insensibly enervated and enfeebled with vice, they have no longer strength or courage sufficient to shake off the

the

yoke which tyranny has long imposed on them.

“About noon we arrived at the capital; a prodigious number of spectators were assembled before a large building; I asked the cause—It astonished me. Two bad disposed men had persuaded the sovereign to introduce a new kind of tax, which the subjects should not think oppressive, and yet bring in a considerable revenue to the state. This was a new game, to which strangers and indolent natives were equally invited. Small stones, as I have before said, held the place of money. A large machine, made like a wheel, was therefore placed, and those who chose threw in at a small aperture a stone, on which they wrote their names. When they had procured a certain quantity, they turned the wheel with

with the utmost velocity, without closing the opening ; and if by chance one fell out, those whose name was written thereon had the whole contents of the wheel ; but if none dropped out in a specified time, then the entire appertained to the government. When we consider the rapidity with which the wheel was turned, it may easily be supposed how rarely fortune favoured the adventurers ; thus the fovereign gained considerably at this game. Hope daily engaged a great number of both rich and poor to run the chance, the unfortunate frequently hazarding the last remains of their property, and returning with despair in their hearts. Shall I confess that I had the folly to throw in the last of my stones, so greatly was I dazzled by the pomposity of the institution, and charmed with the flattery of a herald, who exclaimed, *A moment*

ment enriches here. But, oh, miraculous! perhaps they had not turned the wheel swift enough, or from what cause I know not, but my stone fell out. After some opposition to detain my prize, I received a hundred stones, the destruction of twenty families.

“ Who so happy as myself? I offered to share my fortune with my benefactor, but he peremptorily refused, declaring he would never become rich from the ruin of the poor; the utmost he would accept from me was, the payment of his board for some days at the inn.

“ Detained for some time in the capital by the chicane of the priests, my honest conductor had opportunity to shew me what was curious. How many strange events struck

struck me with surprize; I saw men who plagued, tormented, teized, perplexed, pursued, and ruined each other for no reason; others who flattered, careffed, and gave the utmost importance to trifles; meanness, want of taste, and weariness, accompanied their entertainments, in which they in vain attempted to assimilate splendor, and *bon ton*, delicacy, and pleasure.

“Cloathed in a neat and decent dress, by the assistance of my *bowing head*, I obtained the honor of being presented at court. I expected to find the prince (who should be the best, as he is the first of the people) surrounded by the most wise and enlightened men of the nation; but, just Heaven, with what beings was he environed!—A croud of effeminate, slothful slaves, who blindly followed the direction of two or three

three cunning villains, who disposed them to their liking; disunited among themselves, and bewildered in continual follies, to amuse the sovereign, and turn his attention from their unjust and criminal measures.

“At one of the solemn feasts of the court, I saw something which I thought extremely characteristic. The erif was seated on very high tressels, holding in his hand, as a mark of his dignity, a stick, at the end of which was placed the figure of a bird of prey; this appeared the talisman of sovereign authority.

“I remarked a number of statues and images in all the palaces—not of great men, but those most distinguished in the state; neither resembling them, but with such traits

traits as they would have wished to possess. The faithful artist was neglected and unknown, while the flattering sculptor was employed and commended to the skies.

“ Not satisfied with seeing this country, I travelled through the little neighbouring states, accompanied by a man of understanding ; therefore what I relate does not regard this province only, but the whole nation.

“ Fear, discouragement, and veneration for the favourites of fortune, and a thousand other fatal prejudices, kept the people in perpetual indolence ; while they were thus lulled to sleep, they insensibly became more and more accustomed to the yoke of servitude ; the interest and despotism of the sovereigns and priests strengthened daily,
loading

loading with fresh chains those who possessed the least shadow of liberty. Sometimes these powers agreed, sometimes were in opposition, according to circumstances. Had the priests occasion for secular assistance, or did they wish to oppress any one indirectly, they preached obedience to superiors, thundered against revolt, and pursued with the utmost rancour whoever spoke too freely. On the contrary, was their interest in opposition to the state, they taught that the duty towards the gods surpassed greatly that towards sovereigns. On the other side, if the chief wished to use religion as a bridle on the people, they published the finest discourses on the nature of the gods, and how far it was permitted us to speak of them, giving in their own persons the most zealous example of the religion of their forefathers. But did the contrary promise them

greater.

greater advantage, they endeavoured for it as openly, taking the part of irreligion when the precepts of the sanctuary were in opposition to their inclinations and manners; ranging themselves under the specious colours of superstition where they found it necessary to calm an agitated conscience, shuddering under its crimes, at that time preaching faith to the most ridiculous farces. This folly spread from the capital into the little towns, and from thence into the villages; in short, the decrease of knowledge, manners, and constitution in the inhabitants near the pole excited pity. Deterred from a taste for science, the study of nature, useful observations, and researches on the essence and use of all created beings, they abandoned themselves to the most puerile, despicable, and dangerous objects. Vices shocking to nature, as oppression, indigence,

indigence, sloth, luxury, and fanaticism, had enfeebled, and enervated them to such a degree, that out of a hundred persons hardly one attained the common age of man; notwithstanding, this nation was formerly manly and vigorous.

“ But these reproaches are not applicable to every country in this part of the globe; in several of the little states are chiefs worthy of being called the fathers of their subjects, labouring for their happiness with unwearied ardor; thus becoming an exception to the general rule. The two most extensive empires were governed by understanding, virtuous, and prudent monarchs. They looked on the disorders of their neighbours with tranquility, seeking to make their own people as happy as possible, (at least according to their conscience) watching

watching for them, fighting for them, and looking on themselves as the first servants of the state. The most complicate political system reigned in this part of the world, which prevented their having uniformity in the different governments in subjection of their sceptre. There was, as I have before observed, a number of little states independent of each other, all which encreased the possessions of the two monarchs; but that they could not conquer without a manifest injustice; yet these principalities laboured for their own ruin; and I am convinced, in an age at farthest, will in great measure be destroyed. The political system is too contracted, the education of the young erifs neglected, and the people trampled upon. The administration of justice is beneath all criticism. There are also a certain number of republics, but they enjoy nothing more

more than the name; magistrates reigning more despotically than tyrants, and the people free to speak as they please, is the only liberty which they have to boast.

“ These melancholy observations, and a number of others, re-animated in me a desire to return to my country. After I had quitted my school-master, I met with an old man at an inn; he was seated in the midst of a crowd of people, who were talking at random on several subjects, as politics, religion, and the belles lettres, without the least comprehension of either: the old man alone kept silence, listening to them with a smile. The conversation turned on the different abuses of government, on the oppression of the subject, corruption, inconsequence, absurdity of plans, &c. This criticism lasted till the end of the repast, when

when the old man retired to take a walk in a neighbouring garden. I saw him crossing the alleys with a thoughtful air, and resolved to join him; as I drew near, I accosted him with politeness, and after the customary compliments, we had the following interesting discourse.

Brick. How happens it that these abuses are not reformed, when every one is complaining of them? Does truth never reach the ears of your erifs or nobles?

The Old Man. Certainly.

Brick. Notwithstanding they do not endeavour to remedy them.

The Old Man. That's another matter.

Brick. How! I would rather think it want of information than want of desire to act uprightly.

The Old Man. They have both faults, and in reality want power.

Brick. How does that happen? Is not your crif an absolute sovereign?

The Old Man. Certainly; but he is not master of the torrent of opinions, whose current irresistibly sweeps all before it; he is not above the supreme and inviolable law by which the world is governed, nor exempt from the perpetual whirlpool of terrestrial things.

Brick. You think then the corruption of all that is sacred, the decay of empires, carelessness

lessness of religion, perversity of manners, enters into the plan of the Divinity in the government of this lower orb, which is called the best of all possible worlds?

“ *The Old Man.* Doubtless these evils are all links of the great chain, and inseparable to frail humanity; things can only attain a certain degree of perfection here below; beyond that, they no longer suit us, for all that attains the highest degree of perfection must necessarily decay. From innocence and simplicity, man rises by gradual cultivation to the most perfect state possible, but as his understanding extends, the seeds of corruption bud and develope with it; at the same time, both fruits attain maturity; and where the mind is most cultivated, there also (at least in our countries, I know not whether it is so in Europe) the corrup-

tion of manners is in its highest state—It is the same in politics; from liberty man passes to a regardlessness of society, and from thence to the most cruel, blind, and barbarous despotism. In religion, he rises from stupid superstition to holy and pure doctrines, from whence he falls into the systems of strong minds, for opposites are easily united. From the latter he again becomes superstitious; for the man who is persuaded within himself that there are impenetrable truths, which are incomprehensible to the human mind, is discouraged from the search, and endeavours to believe every thing that lulls his understanding. Absolute despotism weakens and destroys itself, and becomes the prey of its neighbour, or otherwise the wounds it gives are so acute, that the pangs occasion the sufferers to revolt, or arm them against it. Thus
every

every thing turns in a perpetual circle, and to see things more compleat, or more imperfect, it must be possible for us to transport ourselves into other planets. Every attempt towards a reform of education is chimera, conceived in the head of a man who is ignorant of the world, and, if I may use the expression, is the offspring of an illicit connection between good sense and imagination. I am the declared enemy of such systems; nothing can be more fragile. A man seeks a corner of the earth, and builds thereon a very high house, concluding that the foundation is solid, because himself and beings equally light, skip and dance, without its sinking beneath their feet; the building finished, he mounts to the top of his tower, from whence he looks with disdain on the pigmies beneath, laughing at their diminutive size. Soon after a

well fed jolly man, six feet high, arrives, who endeavouring to enter at the small door of this fine house, presses himself, until, in the height of his efforts, the palace falls, and he runs away with it on his shoulders.

“ *Brick.* It would be truly afflicting to human nature, if what you say is true; but there will ever be some wise men preserved from the corruption of the age.

“ *The Old Man.* Perhaps so; and if these men—

“ *Brick.* Yes, if these men entered into a league—

“ *The Old Man.* They could express their complaints and grievances, console, help,

help, speak truths, and also instruct each other.

“*Brick.* Not only instruct, but put their hands to the work, acting on the whole, and stopping the torrent.

“*The Old Man.* That is impossible; it is a chimera.

“*Brick.* I know that it would meet numberless obstacles, but their league must be secret.

“*The Old Man.* I expected you to say so. A secret league! It is a flattering dream, with which I have frequently lulled myself, and in divers points of view, but experience has taught me that we lose time in such illusions, which might be better employed

in the circle where we are placed, by doing all the good that depends on us.

“ *Brick.* You disapprove then of secret associations ?

“ *The Old Man.* Those at least that tend to reform. They cannot long remain concealed, and are no sooner public than the utility is void. They cannot continue pure and sacred ; every thing here below is subject to perpetual change. The formation of political societies, called empires, states, systems of religion, public foundations for the instruction of youth, all appear admirable for the good of mankind ; yet what are those institutions at this present time ?

“ *Brick.* That arises from the disaffection of the first principles on which those projects

jects are founded, and we clearly discover the faults ; but leagued with men of courage and understanding, we might easily form in secret more certain plans.

“ *The Old Man.* How could you contrive a plan which would suit all the political systems? What is the most infallible remedy during ten years, may become the most fatal and destructive poison for the following ten. Men of understanding in former times have frequently made similar leagues, but at the end of a few years they have ever been destroyed, profaned, or have become the source of pernicious abuse. Believe me those secret associations for the regeneration of states, religion, and manners, are commonly the work of discontented people, who are not satisfied with the situation of affairs, and therefore attempt

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a reform.

a reform. Passions and offended pride are the ground of their actions ; and if unhappily they acquire power in their turn, are as intolerant against those of contrary opinion as the tyrants they have sacrificed. Believe me, the man who does all the good that lays in his power, neglecting no opportunities, (yet without seeking them through vanity) that man deserves our esteem and gratitude, as he procures to society real advantages, without a secret league.

“*Brick.* But powers re-united have more strength ; and if congenial souls would join in the endeavour to form youth, and inculcate good principles into their minds, assisting each other, and opposing evil to the utmost, they might procreate, if I may use the expression, a new generation, who would

would likewise extend the progress of understanding, the firmest base of virtue and wisdom; if, as I said before, a secret brotherhood united in this great object, knowledge and manners must necessarily gain, and we should see—

“*The Old Man.* Pray cease; yours is the project of a young man; and I well recollect when my imagination entertained itself with similar ideas, but they are subject to a thousand contradictions. I do not blush to confess, that there was a time when my mind was deluded with the same chimeras, but I now know how erroneous they were. Suffer me to discover to you in few words the fatal effects of your plan, or at least what from experience gained from history must necessarily follow. You wish the advancement of knowledge to spread through-

out the world. What a contradiction!—Notwithstanding the difference of organization, circumstances, fate, and different passions of men, you pretend to make them aspire to the same end, that of becoming good, virtuous, and learned. This is not possible where great societies have been formed, which we call states, but only practicable in those happy countries which you have so enchantingly described. In Europe, where the seeds of civilization have taken deep root, it is a chimera. This is what may be generally objected to your plan; now let us consider it in detail.—You wish the learned of the nation to join, and to augment the number of the friends of knowledge as much as possible. Every society which thinks of its own increase degenerates, as notwithstanding the most rigorous examination, the passions, indulgence,

gence, and other human considerations, will influence in the choice of the members. You wish to form youth; do you mean by that your posterity? If so, you can perform it without a secret association. Do you mean to extend your cares to the children of others? Can they be so entirely under your inspection, as not to receive, when absent from you, ten times worse impressions than it is possible for you to inspire them with virtuous ones? Secret institutions for the education of youth have in themselves something suspicious, give easy opportunity for abuses, seldom forming men above mediocrity, and frequently stifling real genius. You wish to form political men; I shudder at the fatal consequences of such a project; it is but rendering more easy the progress of intrigue and cabal; besides, you expose yourself,

from

from your predilection for your pupils, to be unjust in regard to people of greater merit. In the beginning, your society would do infinite service, or rather it would in proportion as every member fulfilled his part; this to you would appear considerable, as the source rose from yourself, an idea that would seduce you to the point of thinking you had done miracles. In the commencement, while the society was small, the mind of the whole body would help to support it in good principles; but more advanced, your cares could not be equally successful, you would meet with pupils less docile to your instructions, or of less estimable temper; these in their turn would have the direction of an institution, and would naturally form disciples like themselves; then stop the torrent if you can.— Thus with views which are lost in the
gloom

gloom of futurity, you neglect the means of being useful to the present generation; but to go yet farther—You wish to prevent evil; do you perfectly know what is evil, or, at least, are you always in a state to distinguish? Does the narrow bounds of human wisdom—Do passions never dazzle, never lead you astray? Does prejudice never blind you? You reply, No. Then are you more than mortal. You wish to gather the experience of several ages, whose principles may serve as a rule to your political pupils. Why look back? If experience furnished a remedy to the ills of human kind, we should long since have been happy and wise. Philosophy itself does not destroy the passions; but acts on them as a bridle. You wish to hasten the progress of knowledge; can your understanding penetrate all? Does it never meet with obstacles?

stacles ? Are you informed of the exact proportion of learning necessary for each individual ? Do you think no one has had the same intentions as yourself ? And do you look on those as pensioners who do not enter into a secret association to give themselves up to the study of the sciences and speculation, renouncing every active employ ? Generous man ! I pity you ; you are far from gaining your purpose ; but could you obtain it, how complicate must the machine be that put this great work in action ; and in this very complication would be found the seeds of corruption. If, notwithstanding all these obstacles, you could form a league of this nature on a solid and permanent basis, your power would surpass that of the infinite Creator of the Universe.

“ Brick.

“ *Brick.* You alarm me. You are then totally against all associations of this kind?

“ *The Old Man.* Not so; but I admit of only three sorts. The first is a society which preserves traditions, employing itself in science, and the execution of some particular plans that concern neither directly nor indirectly the government. The number of members are fixed; in which if a man of inferior understanding happens to fall, he cannot do much harm, and at his death they are cautious in their choice to replace him. This society exists, smiling at the weak errors of mankind; sometimes amuses itself with them, but avoids being infected therewith. The second is a company which labour upon a very simple plan, is in the reach of every one, and where the virtuous and wicked are drawn
by

by an irresistible torrent to the same gaol. This also exists, faithful to nature, not confusing the order of things, doing good though slowly, but by infallible means, and by the councils of the first, without being entirely directed thereby. The third is a number of families, united by the bonds of concord, and who detach themselves from the whole, in order to form a new state, and found a republic which will last as long as the circumstances of human nature permit; but such a colony, to preserve itself from the corruption of the age, ought to be entirely separated from the rest of the world. There are such republics; I will bring you acquainted with one in a neighbouring island. The members of the first mentioned society are the counsellors of this new state, and alone know its situation. I am to go thither to-morrow; will
you

you accompany me? You will be the first to whom this favour has been granted; you can remain there but three days, during which you must not quit me.

“I accepted this proposal with great pleasure; we departed in the night, and having travelled through many unknown paths, we at length arrived at the banks of a lake. A bark of a very singular construction took us over. The following is an account of the observations I made during the three days I remained there—”

I had just reached this part of the manuscript, when we found ourselves at Amsterdam; on which I put up the narrative, and landed with the rest of the company.

CHAP. IX.

What happened to Peter at Amsterdam—An unexpected Meeting—Forms some new Acquaintance at the Inn.

“**R**EALLY,” said I to the captain, as I carefully secured my pockets, for the crowd was very great, “really the port is a most enchanting spectacle. I do not repent having taken this voyage. Then the quantity of boats that cross from vessel to vessel; of what is man not capable? Greediness of gain instructs him in the most dangerous inventions.”—As I was speaking, a stranger pulled me softly by the coat, by a sign intimating that he had a letter to deliver to me. At the same instant another man embraced the captain, pretending

pretending to know him, though in reality only to divert his attention from me. I had too cruelly experienced the art of India recruiters to fall into this snare, therefore rudely pushed by the affable stranger, and hastened through the crowd to my captain, whom I found roughly shaking his new-met friend, and at length dismissing him with a well applied blow. We passed through the throng, that covered the port, and reached an inn where my conductor was well known.

It was too late to go to the old M. Hastendonk's, who lived in a distant quarter : notwithstanding, as we were curious to know whether his son had preceded us, the captain determined to enquire of a friend he had in the neighbourhood.

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In the mean while, I walked into the public room, and called for tea, beguiling the time in smoking my pipe, and making remarks on the people assembled there, which on the whole was rather a whimsical group. My mind yet occupied by the observations of my friend Brick; I was contemplating the prejudices of human nature, when the conversation at the next table fixed my attention. The parties were a German doctor, a young bachelor, and a merchant.

The Doctor. Yes, he died yesterday morning; it was a pity; he was apparently strong and healthy; not the least symptom of any chronic malady. His intestines were clear and sound, but inflammations of the lungs carry off the most healthy and robust. Doctor Labbertius neglected nothing

thing in his power; I saw all his prescriptions.

The Merchant. What sorrow to his family!—An only son—the father wealthy—he does a great deal of business.

The Bachelor. He is advanced in years; he will not think of a second marriage; his money therefore may assist the indigent. *The Domine** Lummeldick praises his family much, and affirms that the son died with truly religious sentiments, and felt sincere contrition for the sorrow he had occasioned his father.

The Merchant. It was nothing more than a misunderstanding; he did not merit his

* The priests are so called in Holland.

father's

father's displeasure. The lady to whom he had promised his hand at Riga is of a good family, and very rich; but some ill-disposed person represented the thing in a false light to old Haftendonk—"Do not be displeased, Sir," addressing the bachelor, "but they accuse your *Domine*, and I fancy with justice."

The Bachelor. Excuse me, Sir, he does not deserve it. Unhappily, people are always ready to impute evil to the clergy.—He spoke according to his conscience; and if the son had really religious sentiments, he ought to venerate the will of his father beyond all other consideration.

The Merchant. He had every reason to flatter himself with the consent of his father. The answer did not keep pace with his

his wishes, and mutual affection caused the parties to overstep the bounds of prudence.

The Doctor. Oh, I understand you! We entirely depend on the organization of our bodies. It is very excusable then in two young people—the flesh is weak.

The Merchant. Notwithstanding this matter had been represented in a very false light to the father, and your venerable *Domine* had not a little contributed—

The Bachelor. Pardon me.

The Merchant. Be that as it may, he was informed his son neglected his business at Riga, had suspicious connections with a woman of bad character; in short, that he

had contracted many debts, and commenced libertine.

The Doctor. But were not these reports contradicted?

The Merchant. Doubtless; nothing could be more false; his conduct was prudent and manners mild; and it is most probable the letter he wrote to obtain the consent of his father had been intercepted. Old M. Hastendonk, immediately on hearing the bad reports, ordered him to return without delay.

The Doctor. How unfortunate! Vexation doubtless caused the fever.

The Merchant. Fearing to incur the displeasure of his father, he instantly obeyed,
writing

writing first a few words to his unhappy mistress, who in a short time would become a mother, thus leaving the family clandestinely, in hope of appeasing by his presence his parent's anger.

The Doctor. The precipitation of the journey overheated his blood.

The Merchant. An officer in the service of the republic, a Livonian by birth, happened to be then at Riga; he was a particular friend of the family of Meinhardt, and was likewise acquainted with old M. Haftendonk. Being on the point of joining his regiment, he undertook to enquire the route the fugitive had taken. Ignorant of the particular circumstances of the business, he dispatched a courier to M. Haftendonk, informing him that his son had addressed,
I 2 seduced,

seduced, and abandoned a young lady of good family, entreating the interference of his paternal authority, and to give him leave to detain should they be fortunate enough to overtake him.

The Bachelor. I thought the young lady had accompanied the captain.

The Merchant. No, she followed him, with a friend of her father's.

The Doctor. It is a very complicate business—but what said old Haftendonk when he received the officer's information?

The Merchant. He knew not what to say, but observed there was some misunderstanding, as his son had quitted Riga in conformity to his orders. However he
gave

gave them his command to stop him, and to unite him to the lady, after which to conduct them both to him.

The Bachelor. Excuse me, Sir, if I interrupt you; the captain did not meet with the son, as I am informed young M. Hattendonk returned alone.

The Doctor. Yes, and immediately on his arrival he was attacked with the malady which brought him to the tomb.

The Merchant. The officer is not yet returned, therefore the fate of the lady is unknown.

It may easily be conceived what interest I took in the above discourse, and what ideas it gave rise to. The intended husband

band being dead, if the lady to whom I had been forced to give my hand was yet living, our marriage was indubitably valid; but I had no fortune, no situation—I waited the return of the captain with impatience, appearing to pay no regard to the discourse of the strangers.

Some time after, the bachelor and the merchant departed, leaving the doctor alone; who immediately drew near, and asked me a hundred questions; and in less than half an hour related a number of anecdotes I was by no means curious of knowing; he offered to accompany me into the city, to shew me the curiosities, asking me among other things, whether I had seen the anatomical theatre. “We have received to-day,” said he, “a subject from the house of correction; to-morrow we

we shall begin the dissection; I will call for you at nine o'clock." It was in vain that I assured him I understood nothing of the matter; he pressed me so earnestly, that to relieve myself from his importunities, I promised to attend him at the appointed time: satisfied with this, he departed.

In order to consider at leisure the news I had learned from the strangers, I was just going up to my apartment, when the captain entered. "Come," said he, "let us take a short walk, I have important information to give you." I accompanied him, and heard repeated what I already knew.

We deliberated on what measures to pursue: this was the result. The captain was to go to old M. Haftendonk, and make a faithful recital of every circumstance, and

engage him to recompense me for the time I had lost, and enable me to return to Hamburg. A friend of my wife's was to announce with all possible precaution the death of her lover, but to conceal from her at the present, as well as from her family, that another by mistake was her husband, and to persuade her to return to her parents at Riga immediately after her lying-in. Haftendonk might write to her father, and make an allowance suitable to her rank as his daughter-in-law, and procure me a place according to my talents; that at some future opportunity I might appear again on the scene, present myself to my spouse and her family, and discover the fatal secret, which once known, she could not hesitate to ratify the bands before contracted; thus I should find myself in possession of a rich and amiable wife.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding, there were three principal points yet uncertain; my spouse might be dead in child-bed, for we had quitted her in a very critical situation; in which case, what right would my pretended son have to the wealth of Haftendonk and Meinhardt? Would the grandfathers legitimate him? Or would M. Haftendonk subscribe to our plan? It was however well contrived, and we looked on it so natural and equitable, that full of the flattering hope with which mankind delight to indulge themselves, we passed the evening with great gaiety.

The next morning my captain was just going out, when the Doctor, faithful to his promise, arrived, and dragged me, with importunate politeness, to the anatomical theatre: we reached it early: the keeper

was alone; he shewed us the body lying on a table, covered with a cloth. "He was a robust strong man," said the Doctor; "will you look at him?" Thus speaking, he uncovered the corpse; but, great God! whom did I see? Could I believe my eyes? I looked again—It was himself—Haudritz, my old seducer, Haudritz!—This sight made a violent impression on me; my conductor remarked it, and asked the cause—"How came this body here?" said I; "or rather how came this man into the house of correction?" My conductor satisfied my curiosity.

Haudritz had left Hamburg with the captain of a vessel bound to India. They staid some time at Amsterdam, where idleness gave room to his natural vicious inclinations, and prompted him to commit
fresh

fresh crimes. The captain, who had taken him as his clerk, caught him stealing his purse; an act that he repaid by a good caning and instant dismissal. Thus Haudritz deprived himself of an honest occupation, and through necessity had recourse to his old method of living. The merchants of Amsterdam have a right to punish, according to their pleasure, whoever commits a theft in the place where they assemble for their commercial affairs, and Haudritz having purloined a watch, was instantly taken. The Dutch do not understand raillery on this article, they therefore gave him a smart threshing, and threw him into the canal. A Jew through humanity saved his life, and took him to his house, where in requital for such kindness he robbed him, and attempted to debauch his daughter: the Jew, justly outraged, pro-

cured him a lodging in the house of correction. Such was the end of a man once my leader in the paths of vice. Who knows whether in other circumstances, with different organization, and adventures, I might not have surpassed him in villainies? Why is it necessary there should be such perverse hearts? As they come from the hands of the Creator, they are tablets on which care and education might stamp all kinds of character. But may we not be tempted to believe that many of these tablets are engraven at their birth?—On examination of my actual method of thinking, it is true I did not find that firmness to act uprightly which deserves the name of virtue, but rather a love for kindness and humanity. Could any thing be more proper to strengthen me in the right road than the sorrows I daily saw, and which
are

are the inevitable consequence of vice even here below !

This consideration, and the afflicting ideas that accompanied it, made me turn my eyes from these cold remains, and I hastily quitted my conductor, and retook the road to my inn. I had the misfortune to lose my road, and fearing to get into some private street where I might be exposed to danger, (though there is much less at Amsterdam than in many of the small towns) I went into a coffee-house.

As I entered, I met an officer in the passage ; we stopped to make place for each other, which gave me time to consider him with some attention. A mark on his chin immediately struck me ; Madame de La-
thausen's cousin, who entrapped me into
the

the troops of the Duke of ***, had a similar stain on his face; his figure and manner likewise resembled M. de Redmer; and the more I examined, the more was I convinced that it was really himself. As I had deserted from the regiment, I had every thing to fear from art and violence should I be known. But as this officer had also quitted the service from some disagreement, I could not suppose that he was zealous enough to pursue me. This idea dissipated my fear, and I remained near an hour at the coffee-house, after which I paid a guide to conduct me home.

The captain returned at midnight, without any very agreeable news. Old M. Hastendonk, instead of thanking, had attributed the ill success of the whole affair to him, refusing to agree to any thing in my favour.

your. "Notwithstanding," added the officer, by degrees I softened him a little; depend upon me, he shall pay the expence of your return to Hamburg; remain some few weeks at Amsterdam, perhaps we may succeed beyond our expectation; I will use my utmost endeavours; in the mean time accept this small sum to support you."

Thus supplied with means, and trusting to the generous cares of the captain, I employed my time in viewing the curiosities of Amsterdam. Wherever I cast my eyes, I discovered things that appeared to me extraordinary. M. de Dobelmayer (which was my captain's name) introduced me to some respectable societies, and greatly contributed towards rendering my stay as agreeable as possible: he at length engaged M. Van Haften donk to see me: I went thither, but,

but, unhappily, I did not scrape and clean my feet sufficiently on my entrance into the house, for as I was ascending a stair-case, polished and slippery as glass, a strapping fervant wench remarked with horror a little dirt on my shoes, and instantly seizing me by the arm like an infant, brought me down again, not suffering me to stir till she thought them sufficiently clean. This comical adventure disconcerted me a little, I however made shift to articulate my demand in French. M. Hastendonk listened to me with so much seriousness and *sang froid*, that he resembled a person who has tales recounted to lull them to sleep. I spoke for a length of time, with great warmth; instead of answering me, he asked what business I transacted at Amsterdam? This question necessitated me again to begin my harangue; and I am convinced he would

would have heard it ten times repeated, if his clerk had not entered, and whispered something in his ear. This news was doubtless interesting, for he instantly quitted me.

My success at this visit was by no means flattering; on my imparting it to the captain, he entreated me to have patience, promising me his utmost assistance. In about three weeks he brought the Dutchman to an accommodation; this hard man consented to allow a moderate dower to the reputed widow of his son, and that the mistake in the marriage should for the present be concealed from her, but he would decide nothing in favour of the child. For myself, he promised to pay my expences back to Hamburg, and present me with twenty ducats; I also obtained an authentic certificate

certificate that I was the real person who had been married to Mademoiselle Meinhardt at Hamburg. The business was thus far settled, but they left to myself the care of entering into an honourable situation, that might enable me to make advantage of this union. M. de Dobelmayer promised to interest himself strongly in my behalf with the parents of my wife, and we agreed to hold a correspondence by letter.

Nothing now hindered my departure; I was determined to return to Hamburg, but had no longer any inclination to a theatrical life. I formed a thousand projects, and at length fixed on my musical talents to bring me into notice. This plan did not certainly promise me great wealth, but I might have success, and in time direct a prince's concerts. I communicated it by letter

letter to Reyerberg, promising to join him soon at Hamburg. My first essay was a concert that I gave at Amsterdam, which gratified both my vanity and pocket, as the company were numerous, and applause unbounded. M. de Redmer happened to be there; I had not taken the precaution to disguise my name on the tickets; and I could not help observing from that time he watched me, following me into all public places, but not behaving as though he had ever seen me before. This conduct gave me great uneasiness, and determined me to hasten my departure, when a singular event strengthened that resolution.

Accompanied by two acquaintances, I was crossing one of the streets inhabited by common women. My friends informed me, that they frequently attracted the notice

tice of strangers, by snatching off their hats, which they however returned for some trifling present. "In the evening," added he, "they dress, and repair to a kind of merry meeting called the *Speel-buifer*, where by their attractions they endeavour to engage some one to accompany them home, or to retire into the cabinets destined for that purpose, called *Bover*. In the apartment where they all meet nothing passes to occasion a blush, people of good morals frequently mingling among them,"

I testified a desire to see one of these *Speel-buifers*, and we agreed to repair thither. After supper we put this project in execution, but the company were numerous, and the noise so great, that we determined to return immediately. As we left the saloon, we had to pass the door of another

other apartment, from whence I instantly recognized M. de Redmer by his violent bursts of laughter. Curiosity prompted me to listen a moment to the subject, and I had the good fortune to overhear the instructions he was giving a woman to seduce me, by persuading me to accompany her home, then deliver me into his hands. This information convinced me that he had watched us into the house.

The pursuits of this man appeared so dangerous, that I took leave of my benefactor, Captain Dobelmayer, who repeated his promise to maintain a correspondence by letter, and to use every means in my favour with the two families of Haftendonk and Meinhardt. He also procured me letters of recommendation to Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, from the first merchants
of

of Amsterdam, specifying that I was a compleat musical virtuoso. For fear of accidents, and likewise to render my name more melodious, I changed it from Peter Claus to Signor Pedro Clozetti, under which appellation I embarked in the first vessel that sailed for Hamburg.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

Departure from Amsterdam—End of the Manuscript—Return to Hamburg.

THE company that I found on board the vessel were not of the most select kind. An old Dutch captain, in a black peruke, with his wife and children, going to take possession of an estate at Hildesheim, which had fallen to them by inheritance; all melancholy caricatures: some young merchants; a professor of Leyden, charmed with his own knowledge in the oriental languages, a merit that none of the company could controvert; a student; a French actor; and among other passengers of little consequence, a German baron and his tutor. This last was an insupportable

able egotist, ever speaking of himself with the most disagreeable self-complacency, and interlarding his discourse with expressions which turned the attention from the object in question to bring it to his own person; as "you do not know me, gentlemen; I am a strict friend to truth and justice; whoever wounds those virtues offends me."—Or sometimes, "I consider things in their proper point of view. Nothing is capable of dazzling me; no human consideration can make me vary; firm in my opinion, I trample all prejudice under foot." His panegyric was ever at the expense of others. "I am not like the greater part of mankind, weak, and wavering in their principles; they consider objects by halves, or through glasses which fascinate their eyes." In short, he looked upon himself as the central point of wisdom and infalli-

infallibility ; we therefore left him to enjoy his own thoughts ; for as the company of people whose minds were not above mediocrity, must be disagreeable to so compleat a character, we dropped from him one after another : for my own part, none of the society being much to my liking, I went on the deck, where I concluded the extraordinary history of my friend Brick.

Conclusion of M. Brick's Manuscript.

“ The constitution of this place was not founded on written laws ; its government was simple and natural, and supported on the following principles :

“ The sixty families that first settled in the island had parted one half into sixty

equal shares. They built cottages sufficient to contain four or five persons on each quantity of land, surrounding them by their gardens and fields. Every member of the colony worked at some useful employment; the following were the principal points on which they agreed:

“ There should be no distinction of situations or professions; all advantageous for the public good to be equally esteemed. The inhabitants should all wear the same habiliments: it was strictly forbidden to introduce books, or written manuscripts; the art of writing being also prohibited in the colony. The sciences and knowledge were alone remembered by oral tradition; the men of understanding employing their leisure to transmit their information to their children and friends. Thus if their lessons were

were interesting, they were remembered; if otherwise, forgotten. Learning thus became a free acquirement, and each member was at liberty to obtain as much as possible. Twenty families had in common four public edifices; the first served for the education of children of both sexes from the age of six to fourteen. They appertained to the state, and were all educated in the same manner. In their fifteenth year their inclination and talents were consulted for their future employment. The second building was an hospital for the sick, the number of which were very small, as innocence and regularity of manners preserved them from those scourges that in other countries desolate the human race. As the population encreased, they portioned off parts of the isle that was uninhabited, in equal quantities to what themselves occupied.

pied. No one dared cultivate more than his own portion of land, but all were obliged to labour that, independent of business. The forests and fields were in common, under the inspection of the elders.

A member of the colony had no sooner attained his sixtieth year, than he was exempt from labour, entering into the third building, where he was considered either as a judge of the nation, or director of the institution for children. The fourth building served as a refectory to the twenty families who met there twice a day at meals. The inhabitants of the island who attained the age of twenty-four were governors of the republic, and assembled once a year to deliberate with the ancients of the people on the prosperity of the state. Twenty families formed a tribe; indeed, the whole island

island might be looked on as a single house inhabited by a family, strangers to luxury, intemperance, and difference of condition, the advantage of one being the interest of all. Reason alone their guide, the uneasinesses of life were unknown to them, there was no distinct property. The artisans delivered their work to the old men, the labourers the produce of their fields, the state in return furnishing their maintenance. The judges paid daily visits, in order to be assured that individuals strictly observed the statutes of the society; and if there happened to be a rebellious subject (a hundred and twenty years had furnished but one example) they bound his eyes and put him on board a vessel, which transported him over the extensive lake, into the country of the Si-mi-chireens, from whence he could not return, as the course

to the island was entirely unknown. Exile was the only chastisement, inflicting death being forbidden, as the judges well knew that we have no right to take from man what we cannot return. No government can either give or insure the life of a subject, then how dare they deprive them of it? It is permitted to every man to form his own moral system, and to admit or reject those already formed, notwithstanding the greater number have doubtless a right to take heed, that a fault of principle in particular individuals should not trouble the general repose; consequently it is but just to force some by the plurality of voices, to observe certain reasonable laws, to which if they refuse to conform, let them be stopped, bound, fettered, banished, and erased from the list of citizens, but not out of the number of human beings, as they enjoyed
that

that privilege before they acquired the rights of citizens. The state gives to man a civil existence; if unworthy, it doubtless has a power to deprive him of it; but the right to bereave him of life, appertains alone to the Creator who bestowed it.

The constitution of this colony was founded on nature, reciprocal agreement forming its strength; passion and interest bearing no sway in their affairs.

The connection between the sexes was innocent and pure, there not being a single example of an illicit commerce, the simplicity of manners of those honest islanders preserving them from all immoderate and unlawful desires. A thousand accidental causes which produce unruly wishes being unknown to them: did they find them-

selves inclined to love, they chose a wife, which was easily obtained. Among the girls, who were all equally rich, there were few infirm or disfigured, continual employment, and the presence of their parents, protected them from all loose temptations. Never! (this law was general and inviolable) never did a woman dare remain alone with any man but her husband, nor even whisper secretly to another. No one above the age of sixty affected mystery in their discourse, nor was there any occasion for concealment where all had the same interest: education was perfectly equal, the European custom being unknown, of not daring to speak of *certain things* before certain people.

After the first rudiments of this simple education, they instructed the children in
the

the works of Nature and their duty. Practical lessons were strengthened by good example, the strict inspection they were subject to, the care of forming their hearts to virtue, and conversations which raised the mind, giving it energy and spirit. Strict truth could alone move them, being taught the most stoical insensibility for all fantastical ideas. They did not dare believe more than they understood; not however relapsing into doubt where it only happened to surpass their comprehension. In infancy they taught nothing more of the nature of God, but that he was a benevolent Creator, and above the comprehension of frail humanity, and the only means of rising to supreme felicity, a continual endeavour to attain perfection; that after having done their duty for a stated number of years, the priests (which were the old men) would instruct

them in the latter part of life, in that knowledge they had a right to expect as a recompence to their virtue. By these means no one was initiated into the mysteries of religion, until they had been useful to the colony for sixty years. They easily believed the precepts of divine revelation, because they could not avoid remarking in its laws the result of infinite wisdom. Content to enjoy the gifts of a being supremely good, they demanded no other proof of his existence. A solemn religious feast, which was celebrated yearly, placed in their hearts fresh zeal for virtue; strengthened their union, making them experience a degree of enthusiasm, which raised the soul without exultation, at the same time furnishing the islanders with an opportunity of considering themselves as one happily family.— There was no other public worship; they celebrated

celebrated the benevolence of their Creator by songs, dances, mirth, and moderate repasts. This feast continued for three days, and was equally consecrated to the important affairs of the state, the administration of justice, the fresh distribution of lands in favour of the new members of the colony, the celebration of marriages, the dispensation of labour to those who had attained the age of sixty, and similar employments. I assisted at this solemnity in the morning——”

But where is the end of the manuscript? I have lost none of it; the number of the pages is the same as at the first moment. I opened it on my departure from Hamburg. Unfortunate that I am!—the essential is wanting; an information of the situation of this country. M. Brick, at the beginning

of his journal promised to describe it—
Who will believe what has been related?
It will be taken for a dream. I thought at
first myself that it might be nothing more
than an *ipse fecit* of M. Brick's, of glorious
memory, therefore did not place great de-
pendence on the riches bequeathed to Rey-
erberg and myself by our common friend.
Notwithstanding, I thought it necessary to
communicate the fragment to my readers
such as I received it. Every one is free to
believe as much as he thinks proper; and
my advice on the whole is to admit the re-
cital as true, and worthy belief, however
contrary it may appear. We must, as the
lawyers say, have report to the testimony
of the father, in *favorem partus*. But should
any of the great ones of the age be tempted
to conquer this kingdom, and for that pur-
pose fail towards the polar regions, I pro-
test

test that I have no inclination to accompany them.

The wind was more favourable in this than my first voyage, for we met neither accident nor delay; I therefore find myself under a kind of necessity to ask pardon of my readers that this sailing was so destitute of matter. The only cross accident I met with, being a violent head-ache, which tormented me the night of our departure. The French comedian was the only person in company who sympathized with my pains, and endeavoured to administer relief. He was in despair that he could not give me ease, and tried every thing he could devise to diminish my torment; his zeal went even so far, as to endeavour to cure me in the same manner that Moliere employs in favour of M. de Pourceaugnac.

So

So much complaisance disgusted and fatigued me ; and I was on the point of declining it, when he suddenly approached my bed in the greatest rapture with a book in his hand. “ Sir,” said he, “ I have taken this from the side of the student, who is asleep upon deck ; it is a scarce and precious book, a book of gold, where you will at once find a remedy for your disease, that is to say, a prescription against indigestion—How unfortunate that I do not understand Latin—You however comprehend it ; look over this admirable treatise, and choose a proper receipt.”

I opened the book through complaisance, and saw, not without surprize, that it was an introduction in *jus digestorum*, a title my judicious Frenchman had mistaken for a treaty on the juices of digestion.—

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the keen pain with which I was tormented, I could not help laughing at the theatrical herb's blunder. My indisposition did not remain long, and entirely left me as soon as I heard the bells of Hamburg, where we entered in good health.

My first care on my arrival at Hamburg was to run to my friend Rocco's house, of which I was very anxious to see and that I had heard of. When I was informed that he had disappeared eight days before, leaving every body ignorant whether he was gone, the only circumstance that could be recollected which threw any light on his absence was as follows:

At a supper, Rocco had invited Rocco's friend; he accepted the invitation, and retired to his room, but immediately after he departed.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Adventure of Louis de Reyerberg—Signor Clozetti exhibits his Talents in some Towns in Germany—Attains the Place of Secretary.

MY first care on my arrival at Hamburg was to run to my friend Reyerberg; but, oh Heaven! what was my grief and disappointment, when I was informed that he had disappeared eight days before, leaving every body ignorant whither he was gone. The only circumstance that could be recollected which threw any light on his absence was as follows.

A strange nobleman had invited Reyerberg to dinner; he accepted the invitation, and repaired thither, but immediately after departed,

departed, since when no person could give any information of him. The manager of the theatre confirmed this melancholy news: what could I think of it? Conjecture was unavailing. If my friend had met with some advantageous occasion of travelling with a nobleman, he doubtless would have taken his cloaths and papers; he never would have left his apartment in the confusion I found it; he would have taken leave of his friends. The contrary of this gave me room to fear some unfortunate event; yet unable to penetrate into the mystery, I tried to persuade myself that time would throw some satisfactory light on this adventure, and that the same propitious fortune which had already twice united us in such an unlooked-for manner, would again favour us; in short, I could not suppose that we were separated for ever.

I obtained

I obtained my dismissal from the theatre, and began my musical career. I took care to make exact enquiries after my spouse: she had been happily delivered, her brother from Riga arriving at Hamburg just as she received from Amsterdam the fatal news of the death of her lover Haftendonk. This event had nearly overwhelmed her with affliction, nor was any thing capable to alleviate her despair, but the idea of returning home with the title of wife and mother. She did so, accompanied by her brother, the weak state of her health not having permitted it sooner: she had only left Hamburg the day previous to my arrival.

Nothing engaging me to stay in this town, I took the road to Bremen, furnished with my letters of recommendation. It would be abusing the patience of the reader

to

to give an exact detail of this journey, I shall therefore only relate the principal events, and some observations it gave me opportunity to make. A virtuoso who travels to exhibit his skill to the public should never trust his success to his talents alone. If he arrives in the diligence, without parade, plainly cloathed, and with modest address; if his merit has not preceded him from the information of the idle, or heralds hired for that purpose, vain would be his talents; should he even surpass Orpheus, he would have few admirers and little profit; real connoisseurs (the number is everywhere very small) dragged by the imperious authority of fashion, which enslaves their real sentiments, even have not the courage to applaud alone. On the contrary, the meanest musician, whose tones are equivocal, and who regardless of the ear, boldly
flies

flies from the nut to the bridge, will pass for a great man, if he travels post, is announced pompously, displays a rich wardrobe, brings high-flown recommendation to some powerful demi-connoisseurs, pays these Midases his devoirs daily, praises their taste, hearing their dissonant tones on the harpsichord with patience, and exclaiming with rapture, "*Bravo! bravissimo!* what glory for our profession to have so skilful, so generous a patron!"—Such a man is sure to be celebrated, and successful, particularly if he is accompanied by a pretty female warbler. He will be reputed a phenomenon, whose equal the age cannot produce, and the pockets of the juggler will run over with ducats, which he is free to spend as foolishly as he gained them, even in the most daring libertinism, if he chooses to honor his profession according to the common

common custom of musicians emulous for fame.

As for myself, I perfectly understood the part I had to act; and by the assistance of my recommendations, it was easy for Signor Clozetti to pass for one of the first violin players in Europe, and my reputation to spread from one end of Germany to the other. I cannot say but there was some little quackery in this new plan; it is true I purposed never to deviate from the right path; but necessity! when it commands, what can we do? Is it not sure to be blindly obeyed? Neither did I conceive it very criminal to put the folly of mankind under contribution in so trifling an article as that of music. I composed for my own concerts; that is to say, I selected the best passages from the pieces of great masters, curtail-
ing,

curtailing, mutilating, and disfiguring them, so that the plagiary should not be perceived, mingling the whole with some trifling graces of my own invention. This succeeded very well, for I played in a superior stile: I also metamorphosed old ballads into rondeaus, to do which, it was only necessary to repeat six or seven times the same strain with little variation; when after some masterly strokes with the bow, I retook the original though simple strain, how flattering was it for me to hear the concert room resound convulsive exclamations of *Bravo! bravo! exquisite! what taste! what sounds! what expression! what ease!*

At Stade I had the happiness to please a rich widow of thirty, handsome, accomplished, and with a passion for music. My
talents

talents interested her in my favour; she even gave me to understand that she had not entirely foreworn the yoke of Hymen; nay, that she felt herself inclined to wear his chains a second time, would her stars direct her to a man capable of pleasing her, and who was a good musician. The proposal was clear; and I must confess I was tempted, but rectitude recalled to my memory, that I was already the husband of another fair one; I therefore paid no attention to the kindness of the widow, and left Stade.

On my arrival at Lubeck, I had hardly announced my profession, when an Italian musician and his spouse sent to entreat me to share the concerts in common with them. I immediately waited on these illustrious colleagues; but figure to yourself
my

my astonishment, when I recognized in this musical couple the famous Count di Fondini, and his chaste worthy consort ! They did not appear to recollect me : my first emotion prompted revenge for their unworthy treatment and sarcasms in the wood of Wolfenbuttle, the place where I had received such a humiliating affront, and that had nearly plunged me into an abyss of misery, the remembrance of which was now recalled to my memory : my passion however insensibly cooled, when I reflected that my conduct at that time deserved no better fate. I with-held my rage, returning thanks to Heaven that I was not so depraved as formerly, and left to itself the care of punishing the wicked adventurers.

I quitted them with a contempt I found it difficult to conceal, and must confess that

that this unexpected meeting inspired me with a disgust to the new profession which want had forced me to adopt. I felt a secret horror to be an associate with such vile and despicable beings: I carried my views to something higher, and without joining the Italian couple, gave two concerts on my own account, and determined to depart immediately.

A merchant, well known for his probity, who was also a connoisseur, declared himself my patron, and gave me a letter for the Prussian envoy, then at ***. I was recommended to the minister as a person well versed in different languages, the belles lettres, the arts and sciences, particularly music and painting, possessing many other agreeable talents, among which I was spoken of principally as an expert economist.

How could my patron divine that all those qualities were united in me? It is true we had often conversed on those different subjects; but people frequently speak well on matters they do not understand. Be it as it may, this is sufficient to show the ordinary basis of letters of recommendation. My qualities, my virtues, were described in the most flattering stile, which is all that is necessary. I joined the ambassador at Stetin, where he remained for some days; he was pleased with my appearance—perhaps he had great obligations to my patron, but his motives to me were immaterial; he retained me with him in quality of secretary, making my situation very advantageous.

I

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

Clozetti visits different Courts of Germany with the Ambassador; and attains a Post of Eminence.

THE minister was a man of the utmost respectability, great probity, knowledge and understanding; well versed in politics, a skilful financier, provident in his negotiations, yet affable in his demeanor; in short, he compleatly justified the trust reposed in him by the immortal Frederic. His wife was not less amiable, both joining to the manners of the great world ingenuous candour and nobleness of sentiment; they enjoyed particular consideration in the different courts of Germany; in no place acting the part of insignificant protectors,

rectors, yet never employing their power without necessity, and that in the cause of rectitude. They shunned all court intrigue, but where it was necessary to resist the wicked, Was probity blackened in the sight of the sovereign, by the underhand, though adroit, artifice of a courtier, or interested subaltern, they protected it, helped its justification, and firmly opposed the manœuvres of the cabals with which those little courts swarm. I have seen this generous couple, when assured of the innocence of the oppressed (against whom were the strongest appearances) publicly espouse their cause, and interest themselves in their defence, regardless of court whispers. Actions of this nature gained them the esteem of all; envy was forced to respect their virtue, and the court, whom frequently they vigorously opposed, could

not refuse the admiration due to their firmness. I shall doubtless be pardoned this short digression, for the small number of honest and well-meaning souls, who often endeavour to do good, but cannot effect it, even find consolation in having virtue spoken of with respect and esteem.

I travelled to the principal courts of Germany with my ambassador, and may easily be excused giving a tedious description of them. Some years had elapsed since I was there the first time with my friend Reyerberg, under the names of the Baron of Clansfeldt and M. de Frankenthal. The actors were new, but the scene ever the same; for whole ages may pass without these theatres, fertile in ridicule, being entirely reformed. This time I saw things in a different point of view; my employment

as secretary throwing me into a new order of individuals, where I had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the manners of distinguished families.

I was not recollected even in the towns where I had lived the longest time. We remained, among other places, for some days at Ratisbon; here I had enjoyed the reputation of a skilful chymist, and prepared universal medicines. No person demanded an account of my miraculous cures. It is true, I had rendered the sick incapable of so doing, for my remedies had been so peculiarly composed, that the afflicted could never boast their efficacy, except in the other world.

I did not neglect to enquire after my charming widow, Madame de Noldmann, and

and was informed, that immediately after my departure, she had been attacked with a violent illness; and deprived of my assistance, was necessitated to call in another pharmacopolist, who had methodically brought her to the grave. The manuscripts of the famous M. Noldmann had passed into strange hands; I was fortunate enough to be able to procure some of them, so that I yet possess that scarce alchimi-magic treasure, which I may perhaps hereafter present to the public for their edification.

We passed the season for drinking the waters at Pyrmont, which was crowded with princes, counts, ambassadors, ministers, and other people of quality, with and without the outward decorations of distinction, and who mixed in the saloons and public walks. A Dutchman, who for the first time had

left his native morals, was enchanted to see so many fine people with stars on their breasts, and coloured ribbands around their bodies. He took it for a new fashion; and was so much delighted, that he determined to have a similar decoration, and accordingly bespoke a large star, embroidered with different colours, in the middle of which shone his arms, surrounded with a ridiculous Latin device, that a wit whom he consulted had supplied him with. He next purchased a broad ribband, to which he hung a medal struck in honour of an old Stadtholder. His appearance caused universal astonishment, and the jests and mirth at this comical masquerade may easily be imagined; the company had the utmost trouble to persuade the Dutchman that princes alone had a right to bestow such decorations; that they were not to be purchased,

chased; nor ever to be given, but to confer honour on some particular occasion.

During our stay at B***, there happened a singular adventure in that town. A society of persons privately assembled in a house adjoining to invoke spirits; a cellar was the obscure theatre of their ridiculous and superstitious tricks; they adjured the demons with loud cries, accompanied by the most horrid rites and dreadful ceremonies, so loud, that the infernal din resounded from the cave into the street. Night was the time they chose for their dark mysteries; the members of this sect ever came in disguise; the house which received them was between ours and that of an old rich widow, who, alarmed by their nocturnal meetings and horrible noise, imagined them to be thieves, who probably had formed a

design to rob her ; and one night, when the mystic brotherhood had warmly entered into their orgies, sent to inform the police of the danger with which she was threatened. The commissary, attended by his guard, immediately went to the suspected house, forced an entrance, searched the apartments, and at length discovered the subterraneous cavern. The zeal of these magicians, and the bustle which accompanied their ceremonies, effectually prevented their hearing the noise from without, until the very moment the doors were burst open, and the commissary fell, as from the clouds, into the middle of the conjurors, who were forming a circle round an altar covered with black. Who would not have thought but they would have endeavoured to conceal their shame by a speedy flight ? Not so. The blindness of these infatuated miscreants

creants did not suffer them to recognize the person of the commissary, but took the black and gloomy figure before them for Satan himself, who had come according to their wishes. Charmed with this unusual condescension, their conjurations were immediately renewed with more than common ardor. The commissary was on the point of putting an end to this diabolical scene, when a part of the magical brotherhood discovered themselves, and were known by the officers of justice to be some of the first citizens of the place, who were necessitated to purchase his secrecy by considerable presents. Notwithstanding which, the secret was soon spread, the rendezvous known, but the names of the parties concealed.

I had accompanied the minister on his travels for two years; my situation was very

agreeable, notwithstanding the bickerings which cannot be avoided when we serve the great. The temper of the *maitre d'hotel* was an exact contrast to mine; he was insupportable to me, and I had the satisfaction to find every one else of the same opinion. He was a merry debauchee, who emptied his twelve bottles daily; his head was sunk within his shoulders, nor did he bear a bad resemblance to a squat hare. Phlegmatic to the highest degree, slow in decision, he usually judged false by giving too much time to reflection. Without honour, he was ever betraying the confidence of his master, and seeking occasion to dupe him. I was one day fortunate enough to gain information of some of his fraudulent practices, and to warn the ambassador of the danger of trusting him. His natural goodness prevented him from discharging
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this unfaithful servant, but by the closest inspection of his accounts, he protected himself in future from being pillaged of such considerable sums.

Employed to answer all the correspondence of the minister, I also kept him company in his leisure hours, and when we travelled, my place was in the same carriage; in short, I was daily higher in his favour.

We arrived at the court of the prince of ***; he was a tall, well-made, handsome man, fond of pleasure and the enjoyments of life, but negligent in affairs of state, and indifferent to the interesting scenes that were acting on the great theatre of Europe. He did not oppress his subjects, for others, in his name, took that care off his hands; but

but the effect being the same, desolation was general throughout the country. No one sought to correct the abuses of administration, but to conceal them from the knowledge of the prince, to effect which they engaged him to divide his time between the excesses of the table and female dalliance. Thus nothing was rectified, and the affairs of government went from bad to worse, as they usually do. As the subjects became poor, the ministers accumulated fresh treasure. Yet notwithstanding the care they took to hide from the prince the bad state of affairs, some bold but indiscreet supplicants would sometimes inform him of the oppression under which his subjects laboured. The sovereign was not wicked; he was what is commonly called a good prince, that is to say, incapable of doing ill to any one wilfully, loving peace and indolence, and taking

taking no pleasure in cruel actions, but equally incapable of exerting that firmness so essentially necessary in his dignified situation. When complaint, sorrow, or the solicitations of indigence reached him, he was cruelly embarrassed. "My God!" would he say, "what does all this mean? Those people are never quiet! M. Chancellor, I entreat you, satisfy that man; he is ever plaguing me; I have not myself a sufficient knowledge of the business."—"May it please your highness," replied he, "it is impossible; that man thinks we have nothing but his business to take up our attention, &c." These answers did well enough for two or three times, but when too often repeated, the prince was out of humour, and sometimes said to my ambassador, "I know not how my finances are managed; I believe the premier to be
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an honest man, but perhaps in this business he is not sufficiently skilful. My expenditures do not exceed those of my father, yet I am ever behind hand. In Prussia they are much better economists. I wish I could procure some one of your financiers to assist in regulating mine."—The ambassador made no answer; but an event of small importance, which however had considerable consequences, caused the prince to cast his eyes on me.

The prince kept a mistress; she had been a dancer, but was now his particular favourite: he usually passed the afternoon with her. She was young, handsome, amiable, mild, and of a lively disposition; never interfering in state affairs, but taking care to enrich herself, in order to enable her to make an honourable retreat should
any

any storm arise, and render it necessary. As she favoured no party, the court disputes had never troubled her; but the purchase of a new carriage at length caused a slight quarrel between her and the president, M. de Melhsfeldt. Both wished for this vehicle, but the minister was obliged to decline it in favour of the lady. This disappointment caused him to drop some ill-humoured expressions before his servants, which did not fail being transmitted to the favourite, an imprudence that changed the ill-humour of the lady, which otherwise would soon have passed, into real animosity; from which time they attacked and spread snares for each other; in short, war was openly declared. Though a woman, the favourite understood little of intrigue, and wanting that cunning which is the strength of her sex, she was necessitated to have

have an auxiliary capable of defending her from the arts of an enemy; and that useful person was myself.

I happened at this time to have a little Bologna bitch, who, notwithstanding the ugliness of the species, was much admired by the connoisseurs; it always accompanied me in my walks, and as I frequently passed the windows of Belleriaire (so was the favourite called) she ever appeared enraptured with the beauty of the little animal, following it with her eyes as long as ever it continued in sight.

One day as I was crossing the garden of the palace with my dog, I met Madame Belleriaire: she stopped to speak to me, called my Zemira, and bestowed a thousand caresses on her. A thought struck me, that

that if I presented her, she would be very well received; and as politeness to the ladies was ever my ruling inclination, I resolved instantly to adopt it. "Madam," said I, "if the little animal is fortunate enough to please you, I should for ever reproach myself with having neglected the opportunity of rendering her situation happy.—Sometimes, perhaps, she may recal to your memory the person who had the honour of presenting her."—Zemira was accepted with the most visible marks of satisfaction; though I was far from thinking that my present would have any more effect than a simple compliment; notwithstanding it gave birth to a circumstance on which originated my future fortune.

Some days after, the ambassador desired me, for reasons which he said appertained
to

to my own happiness, to read with care the works respecting finance and economical science. He pointed out the best, and I followed his counsel, without enquiring into the motive. In about a month, I had read such a number of political, economical projects, that, had they been put in practice, were sufficient to confuse, and overthrow ten states: the minister then opened his views to me.

The favourite, charmed with my present, had spoken advantageously of my talents and understanding to the prince: he had wished for some one in his service who understood the Prussian economy, therefore fixed on me as the person, first consulting the envoy, who gave my capacity the highest commendations, and was no sooner convinced of the prince's designs in my favour, than

than he desired me to apply seriously to the study of the economical sciences, at the same time persuading the sovereign to make trial of my skill, an occasion to do which soon presented. I replied as well as I could to several questions that were made me on different manœuvres in finance, and some days after was greatly surprised to receive a councillor of finance's warrant from his highness.

He entered into the project of revenging his favourite, an event that the president had not foreseen, nor even thought of, when I was named; thus nothing could be more unexpected to him than the order to add me to the number in the department of finances, and to pay me the usual honours attached to the charge. He doubtless felt the blow, but perfectly understood the art

art of dissimulation. Never did I meet with a more artful hypocrite, ever speaking of religion, though far from practising any christian virtue.

When I paid him my devoirs, he received me with the utmost kindness, assuring me that he had returned thanks to God, on his knees, for having added to the administration a man so pious and wise as I appeared to be, and so able to help him in supporting the heavy weight of the state business. He solicited my friendship and affection, entreating me to bear with his numberless failings. "A Christian," concluded he, "should never be ashamed to confess his foibles."

When I related the circumstances of this interview to the ambassador, he desired me earnestly

earnestly to beware of such a hypocrite—he perfectly understood courts. Happy if I had followed his prudent counsel, it would have preserved me from what I afterwards suffered. The assistance of my protector soon failed me; for six months after my promotion he was recalled to Berlin, and appointed to a more important embassy.

CHAP. XIII.

*Signor Clozetti rises at Court—He is ennobled,
and appointed a Director of Finance.*

THOUGH almost overpowered by the torrent of affairs, I frequently recalled to my memory the instructions of my benefactor; yet the business was often so extremely embarrassing and critical, that I was necessitated to trust in some measure to chance, and use my own judgment haphazard; but of what use is even a good and sound understanding in the stormy sea of the great world, if the compass of experience does not guide the navigator.

The finances, as I before said, were in disorder; and it appeared indubitable but that

that sooner or later the president Melhsfeldt would be called to an account for his administration, which should he even escape being responsible for, he could not however avoid a humiliating dismissal. Nothing then could be more fortunate for him in this crisis than to see me drop as it were from the clouds, like a divinity at the opera, to draw him out of the dilemma.

I understood little of finance but what I learnt from the works of M. Justi, and some others of the same kind. The part the president meant to act was to bewilder affairs in such a manner, that I should be obliged to use the unlimited power reposed in me to introduce new plans of operation. If in conformance to the ordinary effect of projects drawn up in books, and proposed without knowledge of the local, I commit-

ted blunders, the disasters of the country would naturally fall on the new financier, the old president would be exculpated, sheltered from every kind of imputation, and resume his employ where I had broken on it.

It was doubtless those ideas that made M. de Melhsfeldt bear with patience the affront of having the assistance of a counsellor added to his appointment, without being consulted. It was expected that he would have asked his dismissal, but he disappointed those hopes. The prince, who had not firmness sufficient to testify openly his discontent, redoubled his attention to him, as soon as I was fixed in my new situation; and M. de Melhsfeldt, with the art of a true courtier, seized every occasion to raise to the skies the knowledge and good qualities
of

of his colleague, at the same time affecting to fear greatly for his health, which he pretended was sensibly altered; this was a pretence to neglect the intricate affairs which might bring him into question; a manœuvre that gave rise to complaint. What was the consequence? It was proposed to him to decline the difficult part of affairs to his assistant, and not to aggravate his infirmities by too close an application; his art thus prevailing to expose me alone. I was sufficiently active not to refuse any employ, but understood too little of affairs to think properly before I undertook difficult business, in which I ought to have procured every requisite information, to shelter my responsibility from impeachment.

Notwithstanding success crowned my labours, I enjoyed a greater degree of good

fortune than my little knowledge could have permitted me to hope for. Several enterprizes succeeded contrary to the expectation of my perfidious ally. Among others I introduced a new machine in the salt works. Though I had only seen the plan, I ventured to have it constructed: the effect surpassed my hopes, the prince saving prodigious sums by this invention.

Soon after this M. de Melhsfeldt thought fit to retire, and to draw the envy of all the courtiers on his adversary. With this view he made use of the chattering of pages, valets de chambre, and people of the same kind, to whisper in such a manner that it might reach his highness, and furnish him with the idea of raising the counsellor Clozetti to the dignity of director of finances; also to propose the retreat of the president

Melhsfeldt

Melhfeldd, allowing him his accustomed annuity. I had not been two years in the department, therefore the old counsellors shook their heads, and thought it very unjust that I should be promoted before them.

Something was yet wanting to compleat the plan of my enemy; he wished to exasperate both rich and poor against me, and accordingly contrived to inspire his highness with the idea of procuring letters of nobility for me from the emperor. The prince was so greatly pleased with my endeavours, that he was easily persuaded to take this step, and I was weak enough to have sufficient vanity to consent to it.

For this effect the necessary request was made, myself pretending to be ignorant of what was passing in my favour. At length

I received

I received a large book, bound in velvet, to which was attached the great imperial seal, inclosed in a metal box. This patent *granted the nobility of the holy Roman empire to the director of finances, Clozetti, as much for his personal merit as for the signal services rendered to the holy empire, in war, by his ancestors.* The name of Clozetti was changed to Claus de Clausbach, and the arms given to the ennobled Peter was a shield quartered with gules on a field argent; for a crest a bear sable holding a glaive.

My ancestors! their valour did not a little surprize me. My father was, as I have before declared an honest shoemaker. Notwithstanding I recollected a certain paternal uncle who had been at the battle of Rosback, in quality of corporal in the emperor's

peror's army, but in the height of the action, the brave man had disappeared.

As a faithful historian, I cannot disguise my weakness, and must truly confess that my aggrandizement gave me the utmost pleasure. I caused my seal to be engraved five or six times in different forms, nor could I refrain a smile of pleasure on the sight of the first letter addressed to the director of finances, Claus de Clausbach.

The particle *de* has in it something enchanting, and I took care never to omit it in my signature. After this avowal, the liveliness of my gratitude, and thanks to his highness, may easily be imagined. I caused several exact copies to be taken of my patent, and sent to the different departments. The principal magistrates, even
some

some of dignified situations, came to congratulate me; compliments which I received with all the dignity I judged necessary in such circumstances.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.





